# Tamil Arasu

April 1982 75 P.

Thiruvalluvar Year 2013
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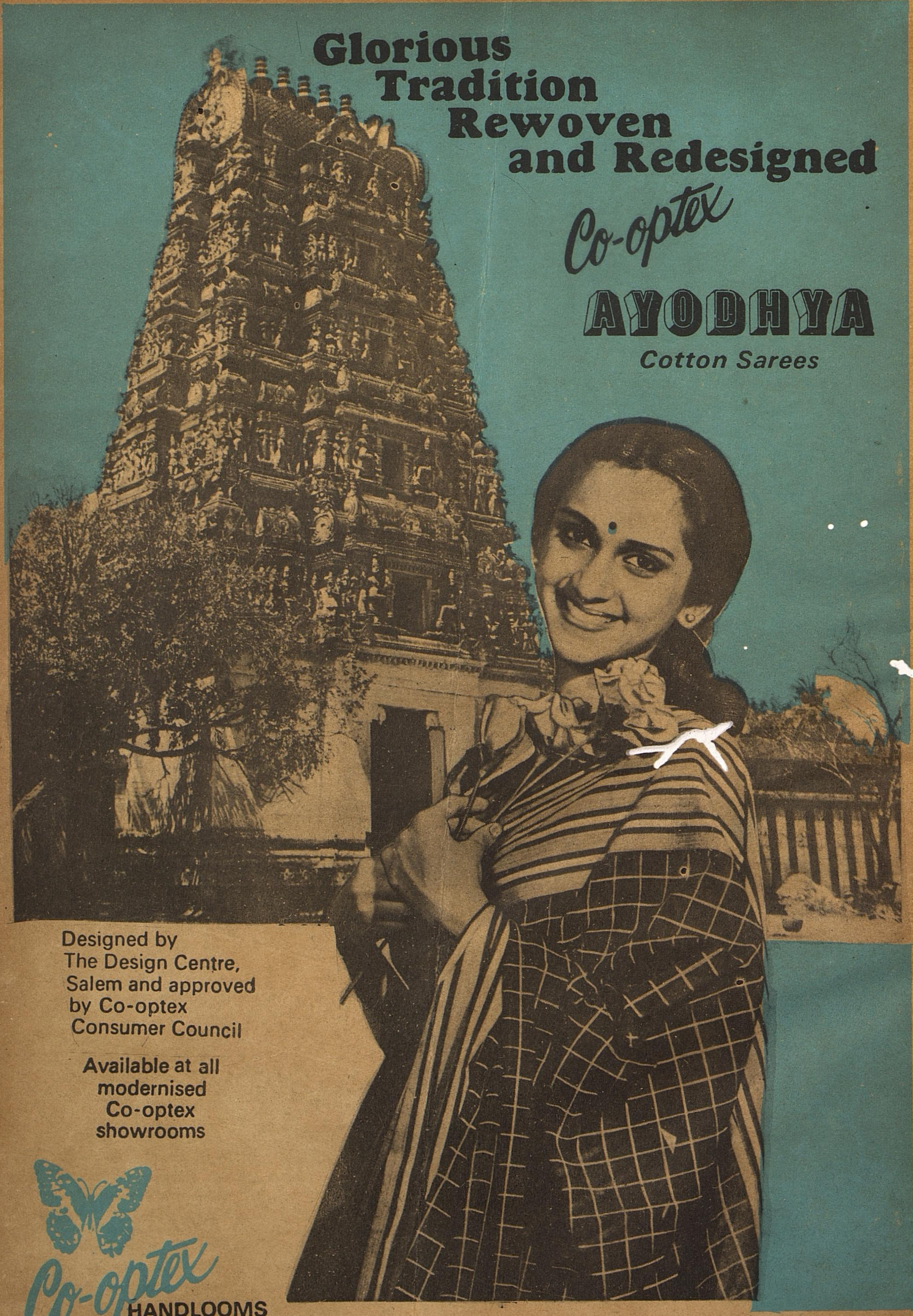

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# Tamil-Arasu

APRIL 1982
VOL: XII. NO: 10


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DELHI 1982

# Rs 100 CRORE FREE MEAL PROJECT

Children are the citizens of tomorrow. On their shoulder falls the task of carrying the country forward and bearing the burdens of development and progress of our country. The late Prime Minister Thiru Jawaharlal Nehru had once observed, "If we neglect our children today, if we do not look after them well, we will be creating many more difficult problems for ourselves in the future."

If children were to be saved from some of the problems in future, they should be given a balanced, well planned mid-day meal of adequate calorific value.

The very basis of compulsory education is to have all round development of children. To achieve this, they should be provided with food which will help them to build healthier bodies and healthier minds. They cannot receive education if they attend school in a starving condition.

The present Government which follows the footsteps of Peraringnar Anna having realised all this has announced a Rs. 100 crore 'Free Meal for Children' project in the budget.

A Rs. 100 crore programme to feed poor children in the age group two to ten will be taken up by the Tamil Nadu Government from July 1.

Finance Minister Thiru V. R. Nedunchezhian announced this in the budget for 1982-83 presented in the Legislative Assembly.

The programme is to provide one 'nutritious and wholesome' meal at noon free of cost to all 'pittiably poor children who have no means even for one meal a day.'

To realise funds for the programme the Government has proposed a series of changes in the tax structure mostly upward revision in the sales tax on a number of items.

The scheme has been worked out at the rate of a 30-paise meal for 83 lakh mostly rural children in the 2-10 age group.

The Rs. 100 crore "Free Meal for children" project will be implemented entirely by women and their organisations utilizing their knowledge, experience and spirit of service.

The Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran said this in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council on 5-3-'82 in the face of doubts expressed by several members about the success of the welfare scheme if its implementation was left to the bureaucracy.

The programme, he explained, would not stop with merely feeding once a day the poor children in villages. An important feature of the scheme was to bring the children to a particular place, allow them to mix freely without inhibitations of caste, creed and religion, and inculcate in them the ideals of equality and socialism.

Academic training would also be there so that when a child entered the school at the age of five or six, it would already have learnt the alphabets.

# M.S Captivates Audience

The "Festival of India" in Britian depicts India's culture and heritage displayed through exhibitions, music, dance and folk art, spanning the entire spectrum of arts and skill of Indian Civilisation from the stone age to the dynamic space age of today. This biggest Indian show was attended by Prime Ministers Tmt. Indira Gandhi and Tmt. Margaret Thatcher, and Prince Charles, Prince of Wales. The inaugural function was held at the Royal Festival Hall. It is in the fitness of things that the inaugural concert was given by the pride of India, M.S. Subbulakshmi. It is said that Nehru on hearing Subbulakshmi, the queen of music exclaimed: "What am I? A mere Prime Minister". Subbulakshmi enthralled the audience with her melodious voice.

In 1954, Tmt. M.S. Subbulakshmi was awarded the Padma Bushan. To her goes the honour of having been the first woman to preside over a music conference. The universities of Sri Venkateswara, Ravindra Bharathi, Delhi, and Kashi, have conferred Doctorates on her. She was the receipient of the "Magsaysay" international award in 1974. In 1975 she was given the Padma Vibushan award by the Government of India. She is a "Fellow" of the Sangeet Natak Academy'. Last year the Viswa Bharati University had conferred her with the title "Desigothama" (meritorious teacher). The State Government of Andhra has made her its Asthana Vidwan.

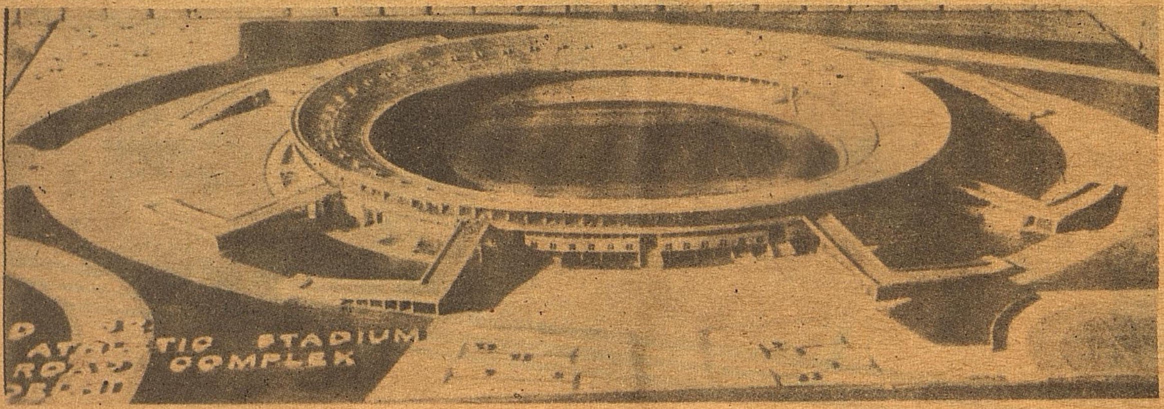
Tmt. Subbulakshmi who has wonworld acclaim added to her fame with a grand vocal concert in the U.N. in 1966. She has captivated people all over the world in London, Switzerland, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Egypt with her melodious music. It can be said that she has single handedly popularized Carnatic music all over the world.

As a fitting finale, she has been elected as an honorary member of the UNESCO, last October 1981. Tmt. Subbulakshi has given music concerts and vocal recitals in aid of a number of public, educational cultural and religious institutions and donated the income through royalties of her records for philanthropic causes.

On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu and on behalf of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru R. M. Veerappan and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru K. Rajaram, bade her a bon voyage, when she left for London to participate in the "Festival of India", in Britain.

**Thiru K. A. Sundaram, I.A.S.,**
Director of Information & Public Relations

# Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium




# 9th Asian Games

It was the Greek idea that the body of man has a glory, as well as the intellect and spirit, that body and mind should be simultaneously disciplined and by this exercise in discipline men could honour Zeus best.

Holding similar views, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India expressed his ideas in a concrete manner as under, as early as 1951.

" Athletic contests are good from the point of view of developing, in friendly rivalry, the youth of our nations. For us, this is especially important, as we have largely neglected this aspect of national and social activity. We have to aim at the physical fitness of the entire nation..

There is another aspect an important one to those international gatherings of athletics. They bring together youth of many countries and thus help, to some extent, in promoting international friendship and co-operations".... Thus Jawaharlal Nehru stressed the importance of promoting games and youth participation, while addressing the Asian Assembly of youth, on the occasion of first Asian Games.

Cultural ties already existed among Asian nations over thousands of years. After freedom from colonial rule, these nations wanted to strengthen their ties through political and economic development. To work for a better tomorrow, the youth, as the future nation builders had a large part to play.

The play fields were selected as the best forum for the meet of the youth of the different countries, where foundation for unity of minds and concepts could be laid. With this object dedicated persons got together and planned the meet of the youth of the different countries. Thus was born the Asian Games movement three decades ago. Jawaharlal Nehru himself was a lover of sports. His keen interest, enthusiasm, encouragement and support gave new strength to the movement.

Eleven countries participated in the first Asian games and competitions were held in six games only. The total number of participants were below 500. There was drama and pageantry during the opening ceremony. The birth of sports history was witnessed by the people with a sense of joy mingled with a deeper emotion of awe.

Three decades later today, India once again plays host to the participants of the ninth Asiad. The games opening on November 19, 1982 will have twenty one disciplines, with more than 30 countries taking part and with the largest ever contingents of about 5000 participants.

The ninth Asiad will be conducted in one of the largest stadia, the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The main stadium where the Athletic events will be held will be the biggest stadium in the country. Its 2-tier stands will accommodate 75,000 spectators, 18,000 on the covered lowered tiers and 57,000 in the grand stands above. To provide easy access to spectators, 8 broad concrete ramps will take the spectators back and forth from the public stands. The stadium which will be flood-lit to levels of illu-

*Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru with Maharaja of Patiala and leaders of various contingents who participated in the First Asian Games.*

mination sufficient for colour T. V. transmissions, will have an 8-lane synthetic track encompassing a central grassed arena for soccer. The jumping pits will be laid between the track and the stands.

A unique feature of the stadium will be a giant computerised electronic score broad, 9 metres high and 23 metres long, flashing results in English and Hindi simultaneously. A smaller score broad on the opposite side will display extracts of the results.

The Main press centre for the 9th Asian games will be housed in the stadium providing all services to Indian and Foreign Press, such as computerised Information services and wireless and tele-links. The stadium is expected to be ready with all facilities by June.

**Indoor Stadium and Sports Complex :** Coming up fast near the western bank of the Yamuna and close to the Rajghat is one of the biggest indoor stadia of the world. Designed to seat 25,000 spectators, the 150-diametere stadium is conceived as a bowl-like structure. A sound proof collapsible partition is being provided, to divide the stadium into two arenas for staging separate events simultaneously. A new Cycle Velodrome of International specifications is also taking shape in the close vicinity of the stadium.

The stadium built at a cost of Rs. 17 crores will give India for the first time, a stadium of Olympic proportions, which will not only be the cornerstone of a Olympic infra-structure, but a tribute to the man who did so much to make the first Asiad a reality, and after whom the stadium has been named. More important perhaps was Jawaharlal's dream of bringing together the youth of Asia for the glory of Sport and the good of mankind. One day the sportsmen of the world will compete in friendly rivalry in this stadium. And Nehru's dream will truly be realised in that hour.

The Asian Games village in the Sirifort area will be an exclusive township for the stay of all the International Sports men/women and officials numbering 5,000 participating in the various events during Asian Games 1982. Besides the furnished residential accommodations, the integral village project aims at providing to spacious building and landscape, facilities for dining, recreations and relaxation.

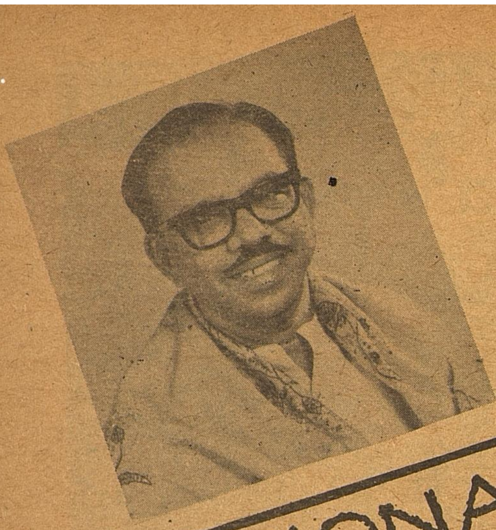
Unique features of the Asian Games village projects :—(1) Traditional Indian village planning with modern facilities. 11 different exclusive designs with permanent external finishing, furnishing with designs selected on an All India basis competition solar heaters for the first time in public housing. (2) Biggest theatre for performing arts with a capacity of 2,500 persons.

(3) Biggest Dining cum-kitchen complex 2,000 persons can dine at a time with a facility for different cuisines.

(4) Highest multi purpose tower.

(5) Unique landscape.

(6) Record construction —Two storyed level house constructed in record time of 90 days.



# NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Respected Prime Minister and friends,

Let me at the outset, convey to the revered Prime Minister, greetings of my Chief Minister and on his behalf, I would like to assure you, that Tamil Nadu will most enthusiastically implement, all the schemes drawn up for the progress of the national economy, particularly the revised 20 Point Programme.

## PRODUCTIVITY

(*Power, Agriculture etc.*)

In Tamil Nadu, in Ennore, Basin Bridge and Tuticorin Power Plants, Plant load factor had been ranging from 35 to 45 percent. An increase in the Plant Load Factor of 2% to 5% has been registered, in the plants during the last one year.

The Sixth Plan contemplates bringing down transmission and distribution losses to 19% in 1984-85 in the whole country. In Tamil Nadu, the transmission losses which were as high as 21.45% in 1974-75 have been brought down already even to 18.5% in 1980-81.

The Sixth Plan comtemplates, net additions, to generating capacity in the country, of 19,666 M.W. Out of this, the net addition to Tamil Nadu region will be only 230 M.W. If the generation capacity of Tamil Nadu has to be stepped up considerably, it is necessary to have an adequate number on the shelf of approved projects.

Effective steps should be taken by the Government of India to solve the Inter-State disputes which are holding up the Hydro Electric Projects. Perhaps we may begin with accepting the Rajadhyaksha Committee's recommendations by which inter-State water disputes if not resolved by the concerned State within a stipulated time, should be referred to an arbitrator to be appointed by the Central Government, the arbitrator's award being non-justiciable.

Tamil Nadu can legitimately be proud of its achievement, in rural electrification .99 percent of villages and hamlets in the State, have been given electric supply. The scheme of domestic supply lines for Adi Dravidars' houses, at a nominal cost, under which, 4 lakh huts have been given electric supply, is in tune with the spirit of the 20-point Programme.

In respect of sharing of power from the Central sector power stations, it would be more appropriate to allot the power according to the deficits as determined by the annual power surveys conducted by the Government of India rather than to treat the surplus and deficit States alike as contemplated in the formula of 1978.

## MAJOR IRRIGATION:

In respect of major irrigation, Tamil Nadu has very few major rivers and they have been fully utilised.

95 per cent of the surface flows in Tamil Nadu has already been harnessed. Diversion of surplus waters from adjacent States would not only be in the interest of the State but in the interest of national Food economy. The Technical committee appointed by the Government of India has assessed that 46.66 TMC of water will be available for diversion to Tamil Nadu from West flowing rivers in Kerala. This diversion will benefit more than 2 lakhs acres of dry tracts in Tirunelveli District.

The production of rice, the staple crop of Tamil Nadu, which was around 38 lakh metric tonnes with an yield of 1400 K.Gs per hetcare, during 1966-67 has risen in 1979-80 to 58 lakh metric tonnes with an yield of around 2000 Kgs per hectare.

A six year programme which aims to double the pulses production from the current level of 3 lakh M.T. to 6.4 Lakh M.T. by 1985-86 is also under implementation.

I would like to briefly highlight some of the important steps taken by us to implement the 20 Point Programme. I shall be covering only some of the points, although all the points are being implemented vigorously in our State.

## POINT: 1.

We have very few major rivers in our State, and the irrigation systems are old. Most of the improvements to irrigation, have therefore to be, only by way of modernisation schemes, and diversion of surplus waters, from the west flowing rivers of adjacent States.

## POINT: 2.

Tamil Nadu needs 9 lakh tonnes of pulses but the production is only

3 lakhs. We have drawn up a six year scheme to double the production.

**POINT: 3.**

Bulk of the provision for 1981-82 under the Integrated Rural Development Schemes has already been spent purposefully. One important feature is that 1/4th of the expenditure is on Adi Dravidars and 1/3 of the total beneficiaries are women.

**POINT: 4.**

Under the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (and Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act, 1951, 1,36,000 acres have been declared as surplus land as on 1.2.1982. 89,000 acres have already been assigned. Scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes form more than one third of the beneficiaries.

**POINT: 5.**

Payment of minimum wages for agricultural labour was governed by wages prescribed by a Committee appointed in 1979. A Committee has now been appointed to review the wages.

**POINT: 6.**

About 28,000 bonded labour have been identified and released so far out of which nearly 25,000 who are in the Kalrayan Hills of South Arcot District have been rehabilitated under the Tribal Development projects.

**POINT: 7.**

Out of a total of 14.97 lakhs families about 7 lakh families have been allotted house sites upto now. Between 1978-81, a total of 1.10 lakh sites had been acquired and distributed at a cost of nearly Rs. 4 crores. This was made possible because of a special legislation enacted by the State Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Harijan Welfare Schemes, 1978.

Housing for Adi Dravidars had also been given top priority. Out of a total of nearly 89,000 houses constructed upto 31.1.1982 under the Rural Housing Programme nearly 70,000 houses have been for the benefit of Harijans. I am also happy to report that as on 31.3.1981 all the 25,741 Harijan colonies had been electrified.

A comprehensive land development programme has also been planned through Tamil Nadu Tube Wells Corporation and 2,000 irrigation wells covering 5 districts are proposed to be sunk in the next year, for the benefit of Harijan families. 43 per cent of the agricultural labour forces, in the State are Harijans. Strict enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act has had an impact on the living conditions of the Harijans.

It is gratifying to note that as a result of strict enforcement over the last three years the Harijans have been able to achieve an over all 13 percent representation in the Services in all catagories against the target of 18%. Particular mention must be made of the admission of Harijan students, in the Polytechnics and Engineering Colleges where from a mere 4% enrolment in 1971-72 it has gone up to 21% in 1981-82. This encouraging trend is seen in the admission to Medical Colleges also. The Government is running 646 hostels with an enrolment of 41,000 boarders for Harijan students.

Under the Special Component Plan, it is our target to help 50% of the families below the poverty line to cross the poverty line.

**POINT 8.**

The Self-Sufficiency Scheme which has been - implemented in the State is concentrating on the provision of drinking water supply. This calls for a massive effort and an investment of 150 crores. After mobilising all our resources ,there is still an unbridged gap of Rs. 30 crores for which we have sought Centre's assistance.

**POINT 9.**

In the decade from 1966-76, only about 8000 persons have been benefitted under the Village Housing Scheme. In the next five years nearly a lakh of persons will have been benefitted of whom 2/3 are Adi Dravidars. The Sixth Plan proposes to build 2 lakh houses.

**POINT 10**

A total of 80,000 house holds in slum areas will be benefitted by the onsite and offsite infrastructural provisions for slums in the City of Madras during M.U.D.P.I. and M.U.D.P.I.I. to be completed by 1985.

**POINT 11**

The measures taken, to maximise power generation, have been spelt out earlier.

**POINT 12**

Tamil Nadu is a pioneer, in Social Forestry. Nearly 1.67 lakhs hectares outside the reserve forest lands, are covered by this scheme.

Out of 35,000 bio-gas plants, to come up in the country, in 1981-82 Tamil Nadu has been alotted, 3,500 plants.

**POINT 13**

It is gratifying ,that the State of Tamil Nadu, has recorded the lowest population growth rate of 17-23% in the last census.

In sterilisation, 1,27,251 cases of sterilisation have been done, as against the target of 1,82,200 .Under IOD, the achievement is 25,684, against the target of 47,800.

**POINT 14**

More and more primary health centres, have been opened in Tamil Nadu, to achieve the ideal of one centre of every 5,000 people.

Ten homes for beggars, affliated with leprosy, have been opened. We hope to bring down, new cases of leprosy, to below 1% within 10 years and to eradicate leprosy, totally by 2,000 A.D. as envisaged by the Prime Minister.

A very important scheme, recently announced by our Government, is, the free distribution of tooth powder to the poor rural people, through Primary Health Centres, Hospitals and Dispensaries stressing the crucial importance of dental hygiene, for general health. Facilities to over-come snake bite, in rural areas, have also been improved.

**POINT 15**

Special schemes, which are implemented for Womens' Welfare, lay stress, on imparting vocational training, and providing self-employment opportunities. Production units, cottage industries and rural textile centres for the benefit of rural women have been opened. Besides, providing financial assistance to the poor widows, for remarraige, the Government, have also come forward, to give financial assistance, to help the daughters of poor widows, to

get married.

The Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project, is, to be implemented, in six selected districts, with assistance of the World Bank and will concentrate on children, in the age group of 6 to 36 months.

A decision of almost historic importance, has been taken, by the Government, recently ,when it was announced, that it will implement a scheme, for providing one nutrious meal a day, to all poor children, in the state, under the age group of 2 to 10. While this programme, will revolutionise the conditions of children, particularly in rural areas, its implementation, will call for a tremendous investment, in terms of money, manpower and other inputs. This is a pioneering scheme, taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu and will have a major effect, of improving the physical stamina and mental altertness of the children, in this age group. This scheme is expected to cost Rs. 100 crores. I would appeal to the Prime Minister, to take particular note of this scheme and encourage it, not only by generous assistance from the Central Government, but what is even more important to us, by her valuable support to this deserving scheme.

**POINT 16**

Madam, in your opening remarks, you included Tamil Nadu among the States which have not done well in enrolment in primary education. With due respects to you, I must pointout that the information is wrong, and the inference unkind.

The target, under the age group 6 to 11 which is 95 for all India, at the end of the Sixth Plan and 50 under the age group, 11 to 14, has already been reached in Tamil Nadu, in the case of the former, and in the case of the latter, far exceeded.

**POINT 17**

One significant feature of the Public Distribution System, in Tamil Nadu is that the private dealers have totally excluded from the system and the shops are run entirely by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, a Quasi Government Organisation and by-Co-operatives.

About 13 lakhs of poor pupil in standard 1 to 3 get free supply of books and slates at an annual cost of Rs. 74 lakhs. About 8 lakhs of pupil belonging to the Harijans and Scheduled Tribes get free supply of text books from standard 4 to 10.

**POINT 18**

The Assistance rendered by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Limited to Small Industries which was in the order of 5.8 crores in 1978-79 has grown to 26.61 crores in the first 9 months of 1981-82. The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited offers in particular special facilities for big and medium industries in backward areas.

In respect of Handloom it is expected that before the end of the Sixth Plan over two-third of the weavers will be brought into the Co-operatives fold.

**POINT: 19**

1951 cases were registered by the food cell police in 1981-57 out of them have ended in conviction and 27 in acquittal .Rest are in various stages. The total seizures in 1981 amounted to Rs. 2.15 crores (covering rice, paddy, cement, groundnut, groundnut oil etc.)

**POINT: 20**

The number of Public Sector Undertakings which was 43 in 1978-79 has increased to 53 in 1979-80. The investment in these institutions increased from Rs. 349 crores on 1.4.79 to Rs. 444 crores on 1.4.80. The Government share in the total investment is 51% On an average these institutions have given a 5% return in 1979-80 as against 3% in the previous year. The sugar mills in the Public Sector are functioning at 90% efficiency.

## Implementation of the Plan :

Tamil Nadu has taken necessary steps to mobilise the additional resources, it has committed to raise for the Sixth Plan 1980-85. The target will be achieved by measures already taken. However, there has been an erosion in the resources of the State due to revision of prices of coal and petroleum products. These measures adopted by Government of India as part of its additional resource mobilisation have meant diversion of resources from the States to the Centre and the desired net accretion to the total resources for the Public sector Plan will not be fully achieved. By these measures Government of India has recovered Rs. 220 crores from Tamil Nadu against an estimated assistance of Rs. 606 crores for the Sixth Plan under Gadgil Formula. It is, essential that the Government of India should compensate for this transfer of resources to enable the States achieve the plan target.

Latest figures of per capita income of various States furnished by Minister for Planning in the Rajya Sabha during December 1981 have revealed the fact that more States have joined the Group of States having per capita income lower than the national average. Even at the stage of formulation of the Plan Tamil Nadu had opposed distribution of assistance on the basis of per capita income. It is therefore again suggested that the formula, may be modified to benefit all the states or adhoc assistance may be given to the States.

The allocations of resources from institutions like LIC for the Annual Plans till now indicate the short-fall for the Plan period. The Government of Tamil Nadu would urge the Centre either to bridge the gap or to increase the share of the States in the collection of Small savings from existing 66 2/3 to 75%. The State Government would also urge for a larger allocation of market borrowings in view of the heavy responsiblity, in developing infrastructural facilities which do not give adequate return.

At this juncture when it is necessary to explore all possible sources of revenue Tamil Nadu would strongly reiterate its requests for bringing the necessary constitution amendment bill to empower the States to levy sales tax on certain transactions like consignment tranfers etc. The Centre should also excercise the powers given under article 269 of the Constitution of India so that additional resources for the Plan would be available to the States.

The 8th Finance Commission is due to be appointed shortly. It has been the plea of this Government that Corporation tax should form part of the divisible pool. Tamil Nadu would again urge that this item may be included in the terms of reference for the new finance commission to be constituted.

(Excerpts from the Speech of Thiru V. R. Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Finance, at the National Development Council meeting on the 14th March, 1982.)

# 20 POINT PROGRAMME

Today India ranks among the leading industrial nations of the world. The Five Year Plans have brought about technological transformation in its agriculture and industry and provided a large reservoir of trained manpower. There has been a steady progress towards self reliance. Even though per capita income is not high, the country is now in a far better position to deal with its old problems as well as the new ones that development itself has generated.

In addition to the general programmes of development, a special activity was initiated in 1975 to lighten the hardships of various groups. This was the 20 Point Programme.

Many of its objectives have been accomplished. Legislation for the abolition of bonded labour was adopted in 1976.

Steps were taken to confiscate smugglers' properties. Lakhs of people of lower and middle income groups have been exempted from income tax. The national permit scheme for road transport has been enforced.

The target of providing irrigation to 5 million hectares has been fulfilled. A national scheme for the use of ground water has been taken up. Super thermal power stations are being established. Even in the other items of 20 Point Programme substantial progress has been made.

The fulfilment of several targets, the changes that subsequently took place in the economic and social life of our people and the new challenges that arose made it necessary to recast and redefine the programme. After careful thought and discussion within Government, a New 20 Point Programme was prepared, which the Prime Minister, Tmt. Indira Gandhi, announced to the nation in a broadcast on 14 January 1982.

In the words of the Prime Minister: "This agenda for the nation has been detailed into the overall plan of development. It pinpoints areas of special thrust which will show immediate tangible results for various segments."

The Prime Minister also added in her broadcast: **"When the 20 Point Programme was first announced in 1975, I had cautioned you not to expect miracles. Then, as now, there is only one magic which can remove poverty and that is hard work, helped by a clear sense of purpose and discipline. On a steep road there is no time or place for pause. Our national motto is "Satyameva Jayate" Truth Alone Wins. In our daily lives we should adopt an additional motto: "Shrama eva Jayate". Dedication to truth and toil is the bedrock of respect, progress and prosperity.**

"Our economy is on the move. It is in our hands to maintain the improvement to lighten the burdens of our millions. This programme is for each one of you, and for this nation which is ours to serve, to cherish and to build. I seek your whole-hearted cooperation in making the programme a success."

## EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE REVISED '20-POINT PROGRAMME

**Irrigation and Farm Technology**

**Point No. 1:** Increase irrigation potential, develop and disseminate technologies and inputs for dry land agriculture.

The irrigation potential by 1980-81 was 56.6 million hectares of which 26.6 million hectares were covered by major and medium irrigation works and 30 million hectares by minor irrigation.

During the first two years of the Sixth Plan, about 5 million hectares are expected to be brought under irrigation. It is now prosposed to bring the benefits of irrigation to another 9 million hectares during

the remaining three years of the Sixth Plan at an average rate of 3 million hectares per year. This will be the biggest effort in human history in bringing additional land under irrigation each year.

In the Sixth Plan, the strategy for providing irrigation to farmers all over the country has five components namely (1) conservation of rain water in farm ponds, (2) utilising the ground water potential, (3) harnessing the surface water resources, (4) utilising the surplus water in rivers and (5) intensifying R & D efforts particularly in solar desalination

**Point No. 2:** Make special efforts to increase production of pulses and vegetable oil seeds.

The Sixth Plan aims at producing 14.5 million tonnes of pulses and 13 million tonnes of oilseeds by 1984-85.

Several new programmes have been initiated for helping farmers to achieve these targets.

## RURAL EMPLOYMENT

**Point No. 3:** Strengthen and expand coverage of integrated rural development and national rural employment programmes.

Integrated Rural Development Programme has been extended to all the blocks of the country from October 2, 1980.

Under this programme, 15 million families will be assisted in this manner during the Sixth Plan period. A total subsidy of Rs. 1500 crores shared equally between the Centre and the States will supplement credit facilities of Rs. 3000 crores during the plan period for the beneficiaries under the programme.

A high proportion of the beneficiaries under the programme will belong to Scheduled castes and ScheduledTribes.

A Total outlay of Rs. 1620 crores has been provided by the Centre and the States for this programme during the Sixth Plan period, with the objective of generating employment of 300 to 400 million mandays per year.

The National Dairy Development Programme, popularly known as Operation Flood II aims to cover about 15 million families in the country during the Sixth Plan and would, help to provide additional income and employment.

## LAND REFORMS

**Point No. 4:** Implement agricultural land ceilings, distribute surplus land and complete compilation of land records by removing all administrative and legal obstacles.

**Land ceiling legislation relating to private land holdings exists throughout the country. The implementation of these laws will be expedited so that surplus land can be taken over and distributed among landless persons.**

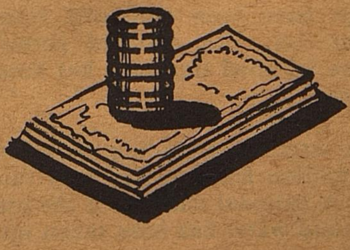
## MINIMUM WAGES

**Point No. 5:** Review and enforce effectively minimum wages for agricultural labour.

Minimum wages for agricultural workers are fixed both by the Central and the State Governments/Union Territories. The bulk of the employment in Agriculture falls in the State Sector. The rates of minimum wages fixed by the State Governments/Union Territories differ.

Since the beginning of 1980, the Central Government as well as various State Governments and Union Territories have revised the minimum wages in agriculture for unskilled workers.

An important method of enforcing the payment of minimum wages is the effective implementation of the National Rural Employment Project.



**Point No. 6:** Rehabilitate Bonded Labour

Legislation for abolition of bonded labour was passed in 1976.

A centrally sponsored scheme for rehabilitation of the freed bonded labourers was started in 1978-79. The scheme provided for matching grant assistance from the Centre to the extent of 50% of the total cost.

Of the identified and freed bonded labourers totalling about 1.22 lakhs. about 1.09 lakhs were rehabilitated by the end of 1980-81. Provision for rehabilitating the remaining 13,000 freed bonded labourers has been made in the Annual Plan 1981-82.

## SCHEDULED CASTES AND TRIBES

**Point No. 7:** Accelerate programme for the development of Schedule Castes and Tribes.

In order to accellerate the pace of development of the tribals, tribal sub plans were launched during the Fourth Five Year Plan. An expenditure of Rs. 917 crores was incurred on the tribal Sub plans, including Special Central Assistance of Rs.168 crores during the Fifth Plan period.

In addition a provision of Rs. 600 crores of Special Central Assistance has been made for the Special Component Plan in the Current plan period.

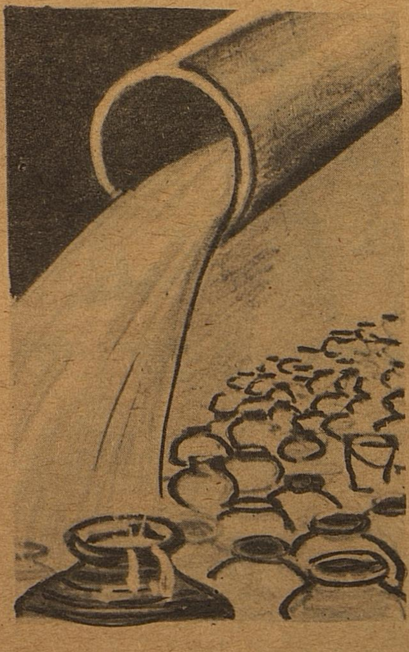
## DRINKING WATER

**Point No: 8:** Supply drinking water to all problem villages.

Safe drinking water is a basic need. The objective of this item is to ensure safe drinking water to villages suffering from chronic scarcity or those with unsafe sources of water. Based on the nationwide survey during 1971-72, a total of 1.52 lakhs villages in the country were identified, as being without safe and assured source of drinking water.

During the Sixth Plan the effort will be to cover all the identified problem villages with at least one source of safe potable water available throughout the year.

The needs of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the rural areas will be given due priority in the implementation of this programme.



## HOUSE SITES

**Point No. 9:** Allot house sites to rural families who are without them and expand programmes for construction assistance to them.

To provide relief to the weaker sections of the rural community a scheme for the provision of house sites to landless agricultural workers was introduced in 1972-73. During the Fifth Plan, the scheme was transferred to the State Sector and included as a part of the Minimum Needs Programmes. The scheme was also extended to cover all landless rural workers.

The Fifth Plan included a provision of Rs. 55 crores for the scheme under the Minimum Needs Programme. The actual expenditure during 1974-79 was of the order of Rs. 72 crores. During the two year 1979-81, the expenditure is expected to be of the order of Rs. 110 crores.

It is estimated that the number of eligible families needing sites and housing assistance would be around 14.5 million. Of this 7.7 million families have been provided house sites and 0.56 million have built houses on sites by March 1980. Some 6.8 million families have to be provided house sites and 13.9 million families have to be provided construction assistance. It will be ensured that all the landless families are provided house sites by March 1985 and the programme of construction assistance is expanded.

## URBAN IMPROVEMENT

**Point No. 10:** Improve the environment of slums, implement programmes of house building for

sections, and take measures to arrest unwarranted increase in land prices.

A scheme of Environmental Improvement of Slums was launched in 1972 under the Central Programme of Special Welfare Schemes.

From the commencement of the Fifth Five Year Plan, the scheme became part of the Minimum Needs Programme and was transferred to the State Sector. It is estimated that about 5 million slum dwellers would have benefited under the scheme upto March 1978.
It is estimated that about 1.8 million slum population would have benefited from the scheme between April 1978 and March 1980.

It is visualised that the total slum population by 1990 would be around 37.87 million. Of this a population of 6.8 million has been covered under the scheme upto March 1980 and efforts will have to be made to cover the balance of slum population, estimated at 31.07 million, by 1990.

Assistance will be given for housing the economically weaker sections of the population by providing 'sites and services' scheme with enough funds for a minimum structure, the beneficiaries to be given loans upto Rs. 3000 per unit repayable over a period of 20-25 years at concessional rates of interest. A provision of about Rs. 485 crores has been made in the Plan. It is visualised that about 16.2 lakh families would derive benefit out of the proposed outlay.

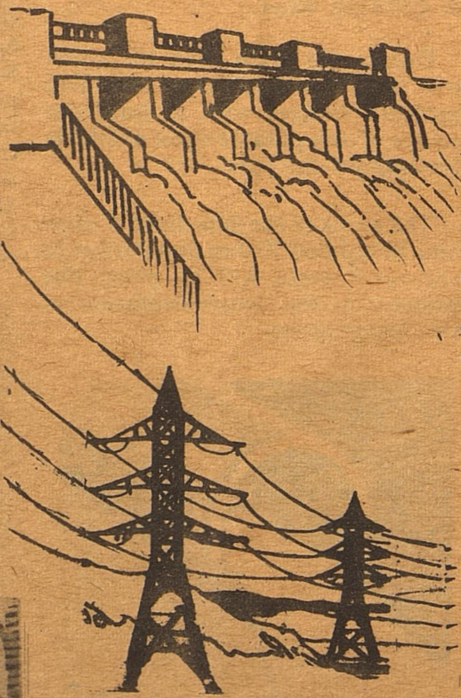
In addition, it is visualised that the Housing and Urban Development Corporation would also be investing about Rs. 180 crores. The HUDCO provision would, however, be utilised for construction of regular housing for the economically weaker sections of the community for a unit costing ,on an average ,not more than Rs. 6000. This would enable construction of 3 lakh units.

**ELECTRICITY**

**Point No. 11:** Maximise power generation, improve the functioning of electricity authorities and electrify all villages.

The Sixth Plan envisages a generation target of 191 billion units by end of the Sixth Five Year Plan.

During 1980-81 a generation of 118.5 billion units was achieved. During 1981-82, the generation target of 130 billion units is expected to be achieved .It will be necessary to increase significantly the utilisation of existing capacity and timely completion of planned additional capacity, so as to achieve the Plan target and augment availability of power.



**FORESTRY AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY**

**Point No. 12** Pursue vigorously programmes of afforestation, social and farm forestry and the development of bio gas and other alternative energy sources.

about 22.8 per cent of the total land area, as against an optimum of 33% prescribed by the National Forest Policy. The existing inadequate forest area is unable to meet fully the need of the country.

To induce all States to take up Social Forestry Programme, two Centrally Sponsored Schemes were introduced during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

The Centrally Sponsored Social Forestry Schemes were transferred to the State Sector from 1979-80. However, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme known as "Social Forestry including Rural Fuelwood Plantations" has been undertaken in 100 districts in the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) at a total cost of Rs. 100 crore.

In India about 30 to 40 crore tonnes of animal dung is available as base for biogas production. In addition, large quantities of plant residues and other organic wastes could also be mixed with the animal excreta for biogas production. It is estimated that if all these materials are utilised, about 7,000 crore cubic metres of methane gas, equivalent to about 16 crore tonnes of fuelwood, could be produced.

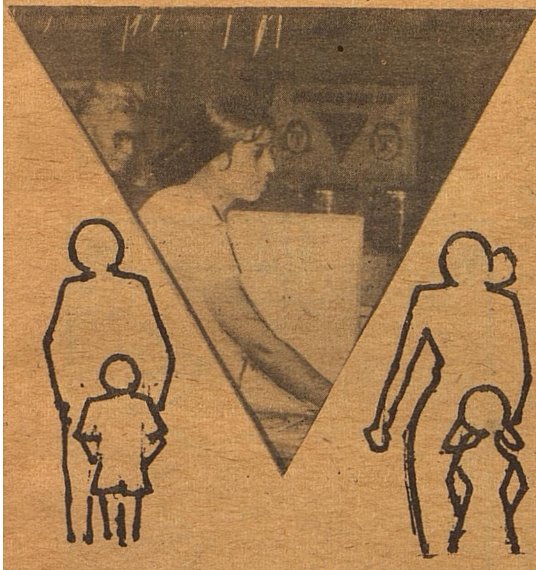
Realising the urgency and need for conservation of energy, a National Biogas Development Project has been launched under the Sixth Plan, in which ten lakhs of family size biogas plants and 100 community biogas plants were contemplated. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has intimated a programme for 4 lakh family size biogas plants within the plan outlay of Rs. 50 crores.

## FAMILY PLANNING

**Point No. 13:** Promote family planning on a voluntary basis as a people's movement.

Family planning is essentially a people's movement. The people now realise the benefits of a small family. The Government's role is to educate them in the methods of contraception so that they are motivated to accept, on their own, any one of them. Trained Government personnel have been deployed in all rural and urban medical institutions in the country for educating and motivating the people. Service facilities and supply of contraceptives are being expanded in both rural and urban areas to enable the people to adopt any method of their choice including sterilisation, IUD, conventional contraceptions and oral pills.

It is necessary that a voluntary effort is intensified at every level, i.e. from the village upwards to the national level. The energies of all social, political, religious and cultural organisations and organisations of youth, women, employees etc. have to be channelled and utilised in the process of educating the people and making them adopt the small family norm.



## HEALTH

**Point No. 14: Substantially augment universal primary Health care facilities, and control of leprosy, T.B. and blindness.**

**We have adopted the goal of 'Health For All by AD 2000', which implies that every citizen should have a reasonable opportunity of maintaining himself in good health.** The rural health infrastructure is being strengthened and remodelled. For every 1000 people in villages, there will be a trained Health Guide who will provide Health education to the people, including family planning, treat minor ailments, and refer cases requiring attention of a doctor to the nearest Primary Health Centre. There will be a sub centre for every 5000 population (3000 in hilly and difficult areas) .A Primary Health Centre will serve roughly a population of about 30,000 (20,000 in hilly and difficult areas).

By 1979-80, the country had 1.4 lakh Health Guides and 50,000 sub centres, 5,400 Primary Health Centres and 340 rural hospitals (Community Health Centres). The programme in the Sixth Plan is to add another 4 lakhs Health Guides, 174 rural hospitals (CHCs) 40,000 sub centres and 1600 PHCs/Subsidiary Health Centres. These form part of the Minimum Needs Programme for which provisions have been made in the Central State Plans.

A programme for control of leprosy is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme funded by the Centre on 100% basis. The object of the programme is to detect at least 90% of the cases and arrest the disease in at least 40% cases. It has since been decided to draw up and implement an intensive programme for the eradication of this disease before the end of this century.

Under the current programme of control of preventable blindness on account of disease, nutritional deficiency and cataract, the target in the Sixth Plan is to bring down the incidence of blindness from 1.40% in the base year to 1% by the end of 1984-85.

## WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**Point No. 15:** Accelerate programmes of welfare for women and children and nutrition programmes for pregnant women, nursing mothers and **children, specially in tribal, hill and backward areas.**

Programmes for the social and economic upliftment of women will receive greater attention. Legal sanction as well as public opinion will be mobilised against evil practices like dowry .In addition, priority attention will be given to expand facilities for the improvement of education, health and nutrition for both women and children.

For tackling these problems, a scheme of Integrated Child Development Services was formulated and initiated during 1975-76 on an experimental basis in 33 rural and tribal blocks and urban slum areas.

A considerable proportion of children benefitted by the Integrated Child Development Scheme programme belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society.

These projects when they become fully operational would provide immunisation and health services to one crore forty lakh children, supplementary nutrition to 60 lakh and non formal pre school education to thirty lakh children in most backward rural tribal and urban slum areas.

## EDUCATION

**Point No. 16.** Spread universal elementary education for the age group 6-14 with special emphasis on girls, and simultaneously involve students and voluntary agencies in programmes for the removal of adult illiteracy.

By 1990 all the 16.3 crore children estimated in the age group 6-14 will have to be enrolled in elementray schools, either in the formal or non formal system of education. At present 9.3 crore children are attending schools. In the next 10 years, 7 crores additional children will have to be brought to shcools. This will mostly benefit the socially and economically backward classes and girls. Out of seven crores children who will be enrolled during the next ten years, 2.5 crores will be boys and 4.5 crores girls. The emphasis will be on enrolling children of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and landless labour, especially girls. Appropriate incentives such as free books and stationery, uniforms, attendance – scholarships etc. will be given to the children of the weaker sections, particularly girls. Against the present enrollment of 125 lakhs Scheduled Caste children in classes I-VIII, 112 lakhs additional Scheduled Castes children will be enrolled. The enrolment of Scheduled Tribes children will increase from about 50 lakhs in Classes I-VIII, at present, to 110 lakhs in 1990. As the children of the weaker section cannot attend full time formal schools, emphasis will be given to opening of non-formal education centres.

The quality of education at the Elementary stage will be improved. Schools will have to be provided with suitable buildings and adequate equipment. Curriculum will have to be revised to suit local environment.

The programme will have to be stepped up in the district which have the largest proportion of non enrolled children.

**Removal of Adult illiteracy:**

The number of illiterates remains high. The Sixth Plan document states that the entire illiterate population of the age group 15-35 would be covered under the literacy programme by 1990. As such, programmes of Adult education initiated in the previous Plans would be made more effective. Special empasis will be placed on Scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women who constitute the bulk of the illiterates.

## ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

**Point No. 17:** Expand the public distribution system through more fair price shops, including mobile shops in far -flung areas and shops to cater to industrial workers, students' hostels, and make available to student text books and exercise books on a priority basis and to promote a strong consumber protection movement.

Considerable stress has continued to be laid on the expansion of the public distribution system to make essential consumer goods available at reasonable prices to all, particularly the vulnerable sections.

The public distribution system is to be so developed that it remains a permanent, reliable and efficient feature of the national economy. The system will therefore be expanded and strengthened, so as quickly to cover all areas in the country, particularly rural areas as well as the backward, remote and inaccessible areas.

In order to provide a measure of protection to consumers in the matter of quality, price and quantity, the existing legal frame work will be reviewed. Voluntary consumer organisations could help a great deal in ensuring effective functioning of the public distribution system and providing more effective consumer protection. Women will be actively involved in such voluntary organisations. In rural areas local representative institutions like the panchayats will be used to create necessary consumer awareness.

The public distribution system will also be extended further to cater for the needs of the student community. Procedures for issue of permits to hostel students for essential commodities will be streamlined.

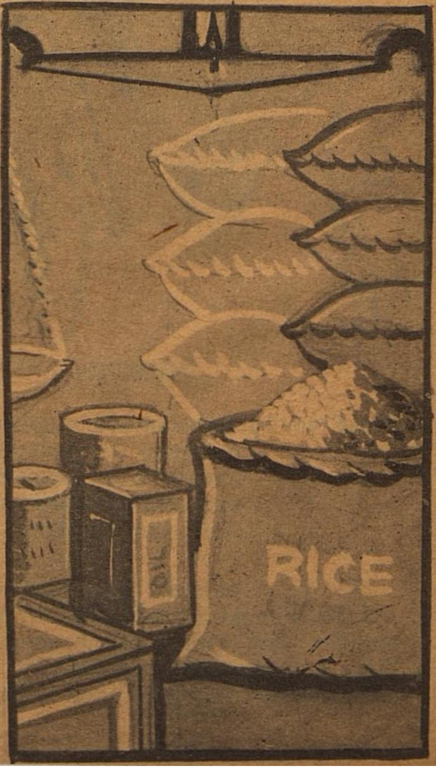
The Ministry of Education at present allots paper to the States for the printing of text books and manufacture of exercise books. The supply of paper to the States will be increased keeping in view the increase in the enrolment in future and the present practice of supply of exercise books at controlled prices will be continued. The following steps will be taken to produce text-books at reduced costs.

Frequent changes in the text-books will be avoided and size of the text-books will be reduced by removing repetitions.

The orders for printing of text-books will be placed in time to avoid delay in the publication of text-books.

The number of book banks in schools and colleges will be increased. This ensures free supply of books to the students at the minimum co t to the State.

Exercise books and text-books will be distributed through school cooperatives. This will save the commission paid at present to middlemen and this will lower the cost of books and stationary to that extent.



## INDUSTRIAL POLICY

**Point No. 18:** Liberalise investment procedures and streamline industrial policies to ensure timely completion of projects. Give handicrafts, handlooms, small and village industries all facilities **to grow and to update their technology.**

In order that the targets and objectives envisaged in the Sixth Plan are realised, a number of steps have already been taken to liberalise investment policies and streamline industrial policies during the last two years. The time frame for issue of licences has been substantially reduced.

In order to boost the development of small scale industries and ensure their rapid growth, the limits of investment prescribed for these industries have been enhanced.

The Sixth plan attaches considerable importance to the promotion of village and small industries in view of their large employment potential. The Plan envisages a public sector outlay of Rs. 1780 crores for the programme, which means a step-up of 3.3 times over that of the Fifth Plan outlay of Rs. 535 crores.

Emphasis will be given to the achievement of the production and employment target for village and small industries set in the Sixth Plan for 1984-85, especially in sericulture, carpet weaving etc. Action has been initiated for revival of sick industrial units, setting up of a National Handloom Development Corporation and of cooperative spinning mills and ancillarisation and 'nucleus' plants programme.

State Governments are being asked to take active interest in the same scheme of augmenting the production of controlled cloth in the handloom sector so as to increase the availability of cloth for the weaker sections, particularly in the rural areas.

## FIGHT AGAINST BLACK MONEY

**Point No. 19:** Continue strict action against smugglers, hoarders and tax evaders and check black money.

The Government will intensify its action against anti social elements like speculators, hoarders, black marketeers as well as smugglers. The administration of various administrative as well as legislative measures such as the Eessential Commodities Act, the Prevention of Black marketing and Maintenance of Essential Supplies Act etc. will be tightened. Tax administration will be tightened to curb tax avoideance and tax evasion and the use of unaccounted funds.

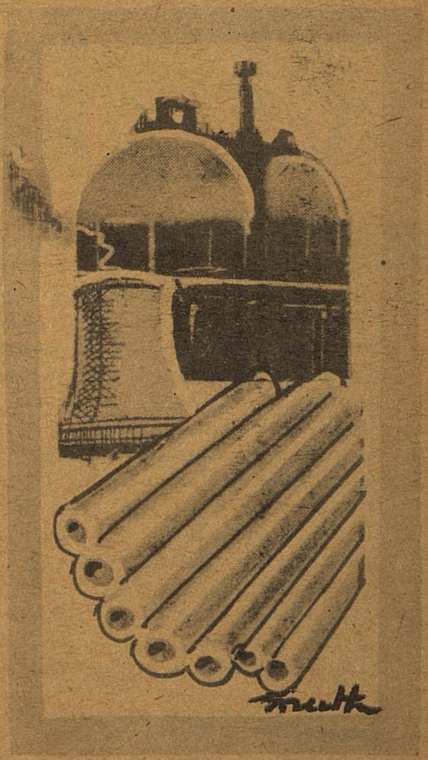
The Action Plan comprises the four pronged strategy viz., (*i*) Strenththening of preventive and intelligence machinery, (*ii*) Intensification of application of the provisions of the COFEPOSA Act, (*iii*) Economic and legislative measures and (*iv*) Bilateral arrangements/cooperation with neighbouring countries.

## PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

**Point No 20:** Improve the working of public enterprises by increasing efficiency, capacity, utilisation and generation of internal resources.

The public sector today embraces a wide spectrum of economic activities like manufacturing and mining, transportation, trading and marketing, project counsultancy, general contracting etc. It plays a commanding role in the development of vital industries like steel, atomic energy, mining petroleum, chemicals and fertilizers and heavy engineering. It has also entered into areas of consumer goods like textiles and newer fields like electronics.

The basic soundness of the policy of assigning a dominant role to the public sector has been demonstrated by the progress made in the country during the last three decades. The structural transformation that has been brought about would not have been possible but for the initiative taken by the State, especially in the field of basic and heavy industries. The State is also instrumental in creating the necessary infrastructure which is so vital for rapid growth.



1982 has been designated as the 'Productivity Year'. Every unit of production should identify and remove the constraints responsible for the prevailing gap between potential and actual utilisation.

Courtesy: P.I.B.

# WORK SHEDS for WOOD CARVERS

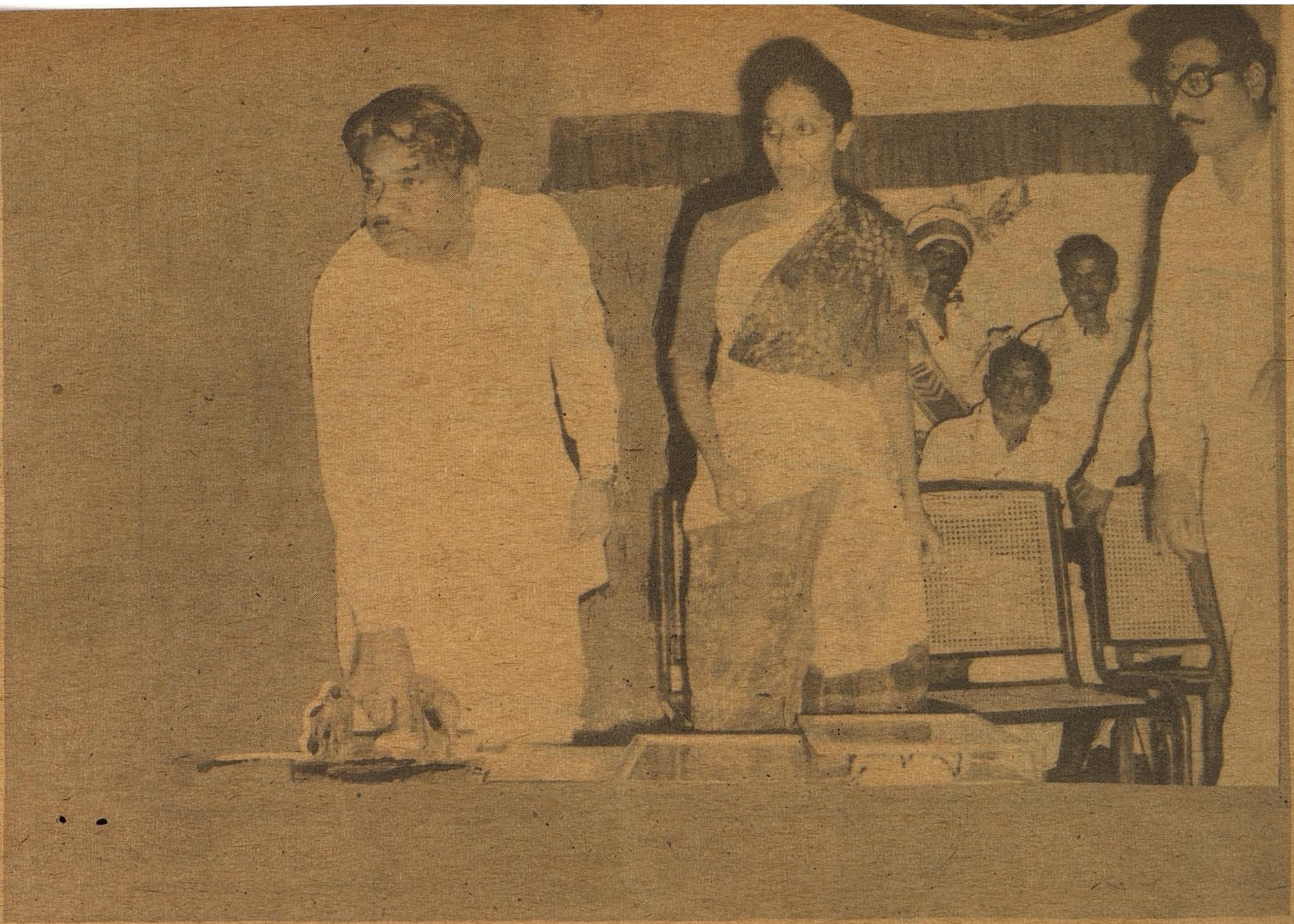
SIDCO, an Enterprise of the Government of Tamil Nadu, which is activiely engaged in the development of Small Scale Industries in the State has been undertaking the work of establishing network of Industrial Estates for the benefit of the Small scale Enterpreneurs throughout the State. A welcome avantage to the series of construction activities undertaken by SIDCO, especially during the last four years, has been the scheme for construction of sheds for Tiny Units for the benefit of artisans and craftsmen who seek self-employment by starting industries, deep in the semi-urban and rural areas, undertaking either a production activity, or a service activity. SIDCO evolved special Tiny Shed designs, to suit their requirements.

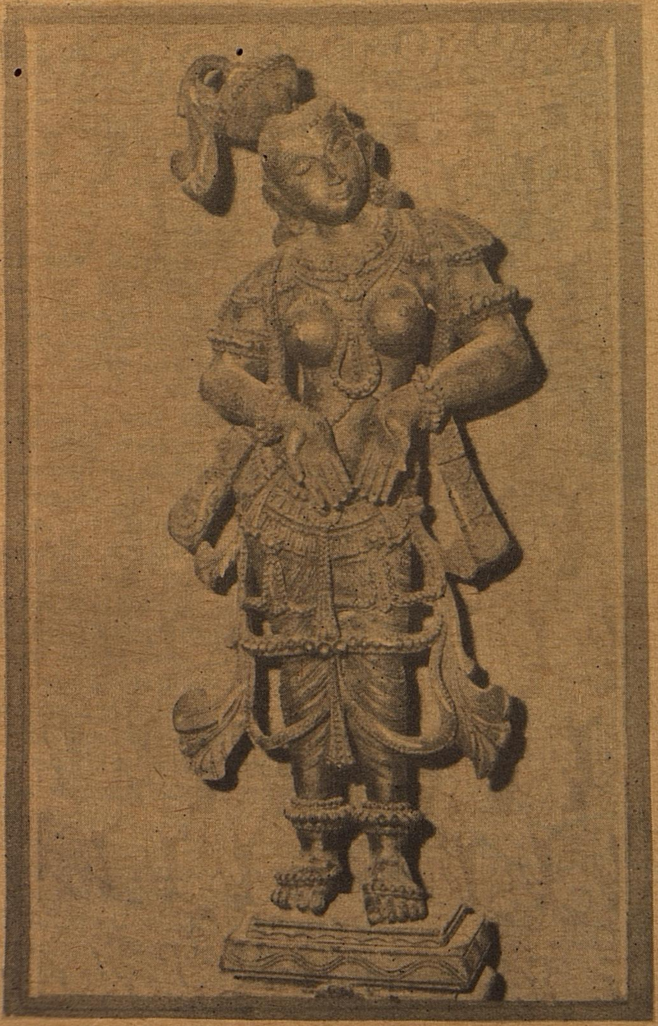
SIDCO has so far put up 1,360 such Tiny Sheds at 84 different locations in rural and far-flung interior areas of various districts in Tamil Nadu. These Tiny Sector Schemes, that provide workshed to the artisan and craftsman near to their residence, considered in the background of the present unemployment in the rural areas, and the tendency on the part of the rural artisans to migrate to the urban areas, have been of immense help to the community at large.

Apart from the establishment of several Industrial Estates during the last four years for the benefit of the Tiny Sector Units, yet another achievement has been made by SIDCO with the inauguration of the Tiny Sector Industrial Estate, exclusively for wood carvers, at Thaluthalai village, near Arumbavur in Trichy District on 24.2.82 by the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries.

The Thaluthalai Village is located 30 Kilometres away from Perambalur and 80 Kilometres away from Trichy. The Estate, established by SIDCO at Thaluthalai Village, consists of 50 sheds each measuring 200 sq.ft. The proposal for establishing the above Estate, mainly for the wood carvers, has been initiated by SIDCO with reference to the request made by the artisans engaged in wood carving in the village. These artisans are mostly the members of the Arumbavur Wood Carvers' Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd., which consists of about 142 members and functioning under the control of the District Industries Centre, Trichy. The wooden panels produced by these artisans, utilising their skill and labour, are very attractive and are appreciated by the foreigners. The Society helps the artisans for marketing their idols through Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation, popularly known as POOMPUHAR. Since the artisans are working in temporary sheds, they made representation to SIDCO for provision of Tiny Sheds under SIDCO's Industrial Estate Programme. With a view to help the artisans and to encourage the traditional arts, SIDCO has agreed with the proposal to establish an Industrial Estate for their benefit. The total investment in respect of each artisan, works out to Rs. 8,200/-, as furnished below:

| | |
|---|---|
| i) Land and Building | Rs. 7,700 |
| ii) Other expenses | Rs. 500 |
| Total | Rs. 8,200 |





Of this, the District Industries Centre grants RIP loan upto Rs. 5,400/- The District Rural Development Authority has given a subsidy of Rs. 2,700/- The contribution made by the artisans, has thus become as minimum amount as possible. Identification of entrepreneurs who could contribute a minimum amount of Rs. 300/- as margin, has been made and they have been provided with worksheds. The amount invested by SIDCO towards purchase of land and construction of sheds is Rs. 4.041 lakhs and nearly 200 persons will have working facilities in the Industrial Estate. The salient feature of the scheme is that, various agencies involved in rural areas have come forward to assist at a time, 50 Tiny Units for Industrial activities, especially to uplift the artisans, encouraging their art and skill in a remote village like Thaluthalai near Arumbavur. 37 Sheds out of 50 have already been allotted to 33 craftsmen and the remaining 13 will also be given to the rural artisans.

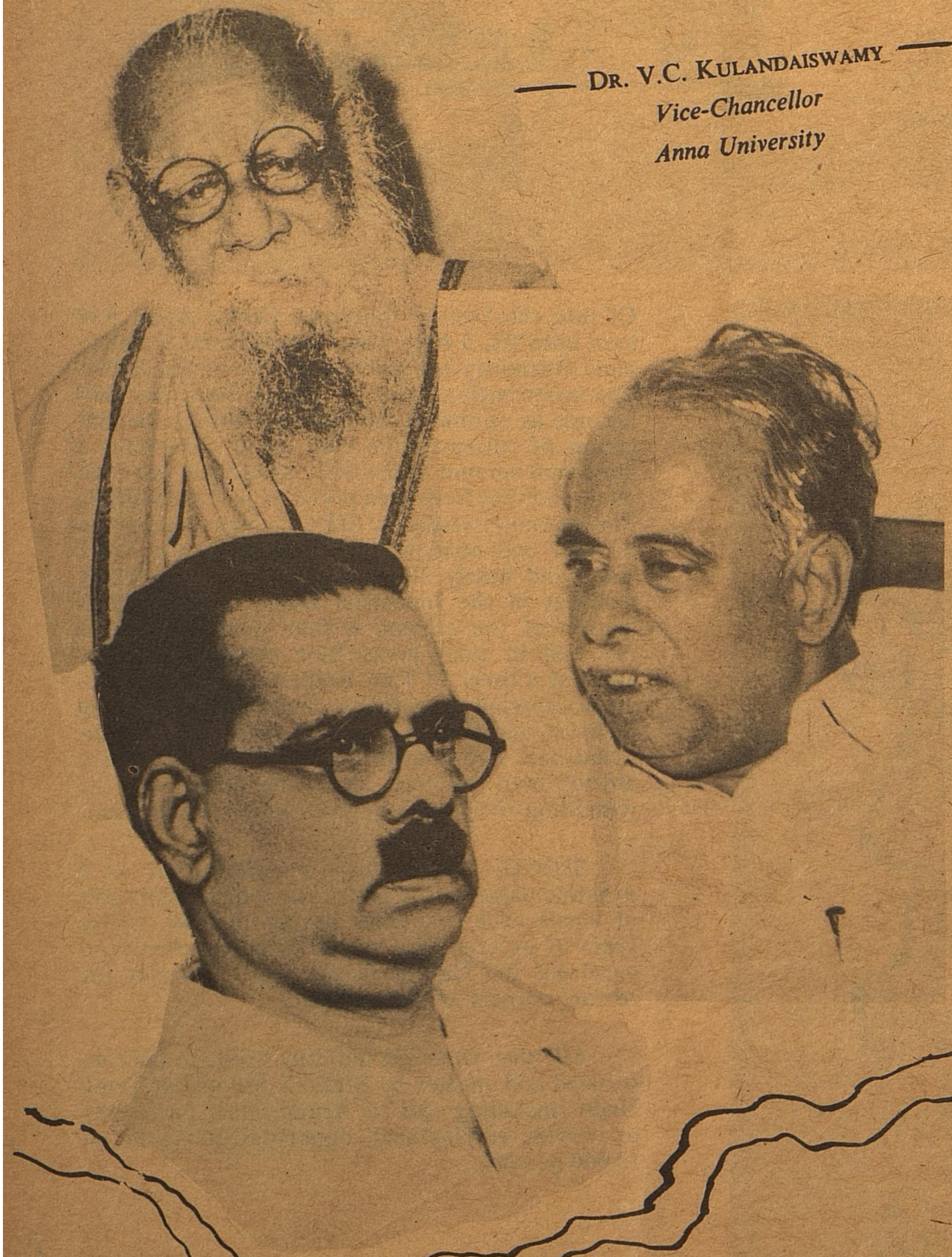
SIDCO, which has revealed itself as a dynamic organisation in the cause of development of small scale industries during the last twelve years of its existence, has at its hand, schemes to construct 500 Tiny Sheds per year, covering the remote corners of Tamil Nadu.

All the Units in the Tiny Sheds so far constructed and allotted by SIDCO throughout Tamil Nadu (including that of Arumbavur), paves way to provide employment opportunities to about 13,000 persons.

# BHARATHITHASAN

## THE REFORMER AND THE REVOLUTIONARY

— Dr. V.C. Kulandaiswamy —
*Vice-Chancellor*
*Anna University*



Bharathithasan, the disciple or the follower of Bharathi as the name indicates, is very different from his master in many respects. There are more things where they are, atleast apparently, not merely different, but at the opposite end of the spectrum. Bharathithasan took his pen name while young, and under the umbrella of Bharathi, both with regard to the style of writing and the substance of the thoughts. However, he changed his outlook and approach rather radically in the later years when he came under the influence of Periyar's social reform movement. Nevertheless the esteem he had for Bharathi, leading to his adopting the pseudonym Bharathithasan, did not undergo any change. His regard and reverence, appreciation and acclaim remained till the very end, not merely unchanged but even unshaken. The basis for this relationship between the two great poets of the Tamil world in this century deserves a deeper study, than what has been attempted so far.

In the beginning of his career, Bharathithasan extolled the freedom struggle, Khadi movement, religion and God. Later he departed completely and consciously from his earlier interests and became quite indifferent or even antagonistic to many of the things he earlier preached and pleaded for. However this transformation or a near metamorphosis came early in his life and in the rest of his career, his goal was clear and unchanged; the path was definite; and the journey was uninterrupted. He remained an uncompromising crusader against social evils, supertitions, exploitative practices and economic injustices.

He held definite views on vital areas of life and expressed them with clarity and conviction. In political belief a democrat; in economic organisation a socialist; in social system a crusader against divisions and dispartities; in the field of language a near puritan; in party politics an ardent follower of all that the self respect philosophy and Dravidian movement stood for; he was a man of indomitable spirit of independence, and fierce individuality. Nevertheless, the influence of Periyar on his social thoughts and that of Anna on his concepts of Tamil language and race were substantial; almost complete. Notwithstanding the master-disciple relationship, these three rode on the political and social scene of Tamil Nadu like colossuses for half a century each in his own right. The enduring changes that this combination brought about

in Tamil Nadu, socially and politically, is yet to be fully discerned and evaluated in terms of their immediate and long term consequences.

During the first half of the twentieth century ,there were two dominant thoughts that moved people in India. One was the movement for political independence and the other, less in importance, was the fight against economic exploitation. Tamil Nadu was somewhat singular in projecting an additional third dimension, namely a crusade against social inequalities based on caste system and traditions of the Hindu society. Periyar was the founder and propogator of the thought and philosophy that political freedom and economic justice would be of no great consequence in India unless social justice was also achieved. Anna added to this, the spirit of Tamil nationalism, no doubt consistent with Indian nationhood. Bharathithasan's poems were a mighty weapon lending support and sustenance to a new kind of class struggle waged in Tamil Nadu.

All the writings of Bharathithasan in one way or the other, were directed at crusading against social inequalities; economic injustices; blind faiths and beliefs and fighting for the recognition of Tamil language in the cultural map of India and for the renaissance of Tamil heritage. He sang tirelessly the glory of the Tamils; the greatness of their language and the richness of their culture. He also wept with tears of blood over the later decadence and degeneration and the present humble state of existence of the Tamil race and he strove unceasingly to bring about a climate of change in that state.

Unlike many other Tamil poets of this century, Bharathithasan was very deeply read in Tamil classics of the ancient past. He was quite at home with the rules of grammar as well as the literary traditions of his forefathers starting with the Sangam age. Though he built on the reform and change that Bharathi initiated, his base was firm and broad and he stood on the foundations of Tamil literary tradition. His was a revolution in Tamil literary style, without an abrupt break and he maintained the continuity while marching forward.

Perhaps in no part of the history of Tamils, has any poet devoted so

much of his writings, poured so much of his emotions, pleaded so fiercely and vehemently and over such a length of his literary career, for the protection, claims and development of Tamil.

The land of his birth and the language of his forefathers moved him beyond words. He exercised no great caution in criticising those that he considered, inimical to his language and culture; maintained no restraint in praising and blessing those whom he thought were working for the cause of Tamil. He spared no efforts and no time in exhorting the Tamils to work for the development and glory of their language.

A theme that received attention more than in the writings of other of his period is the status of women in our society. Bharathi gave vent to his feelings of disapproval, and indignation over, the plight of women in this country. Bharathithasan carried forward this crusade and pleaded forcefully and ceaselessly for the emancipation of women. Of the many things that made women dependent and restrained in movement,one is frequent pregnancy, bearing and bringing up of, children. Contraception perhaps is the greatest liberator of women, and Bharathithasan was the first to give it the dignity to deserve a place in a poem and to praise it and plead for it. His courage of conviction has been unusual and has always been in keeping with the traditions of Periyar's precepts and practices. Bharathithasan never refrained from giving expression to a thought for fear of criticism and courting unpopularity .Fighting enthused him and energised him; popularity was never to him a temptation.

The trio, Periyar, Anna and Bharathithasan, will go down in the history of the Tamils as a great team of giants who brought about an awakening unparalleled; uprooted beliefs and faiths as never before; created a following that endures; destroyed superstitions and dethroned traditions that held sway for centuries. Bharathithasan, a, great poet, a reformer, a revolutionary and above all, a crusader against all forms of injustice and iniquity can be fully understood only when seen as part of this great team in the history of the Tamils.

# NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

The problem of unemployment and under employment in Rural areas is acute and colossul. According to 1981 Census of populations, in Tamilnadu the rural population constitutes, 3,23,69,504 persons among which 55,55,382 persons are agricultural labourers and 53,54,087 are cultivators. Most of the land holdings are so small in size that they do not provide enough work and food. Over and above these small cultivators, the agricultural labourers entirely depend and earn their livelihood in farm. They are also employed only during agricultural seaons.

**Innovation**

To obviate the problems of unemployed and underemployed, the Food for Work Programme was conceived early in 1977 by Government of India. Its main objectives were to utilise available food grains for generating gainful employment in rural areas and thereby creating durable community assets, in order to strengthen the rural infrastructures for socio-economic development. Even though this was a centrally sponsored Government of India Programme, Tamilnadu was able to join with the main stream only witheffect from April, 1979 when the Central Government conceeded for the supply of rice under Food for Work Programme.

While implementing of Food for Work Programme a number of defects/shortcomings were noticed. It has therefore been suitably modified and restructured and the new programme christened as National Rural Employment Programme was ushered in from October, 1980.

**Incantation**

The programme has been initiated as centrally sponsored with 50: 50 Centre/State share with three fold crucial objectives as under

(i) Generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed persons both men and women in the rural areas.

(ii) Creation of durable community assets for strengthening the rural infrastructure which will lead to rapid growth of rural economy and steady rise in the income levels of the rural poor.

and

(iii) Improvement of nutritional status and living standards of the rural poor.

**Inlets**

To inject the above objectives the programme contemplates that only the works which directly help in strengthening rural infrastructure and result in the creation of durable assets in the rural areas as also those works which improve the rural economy and quality of life in the villages can be taken up under the programme. The types of works that can be taken under the programme are as under.—

(1) Afforestation and social forestry works on Government and community lands belonging to local bodies like panchayats etc. road side plantation, plantations along canal banks and on waste lands, on sides of railway lines etc., plantations of trees and denuded forest areas and other land unfit for cultivations, plantation of fuel, food and fruit trees.

(2) Drinking water wells, community irrigation wells, group housing and land development projects for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes.

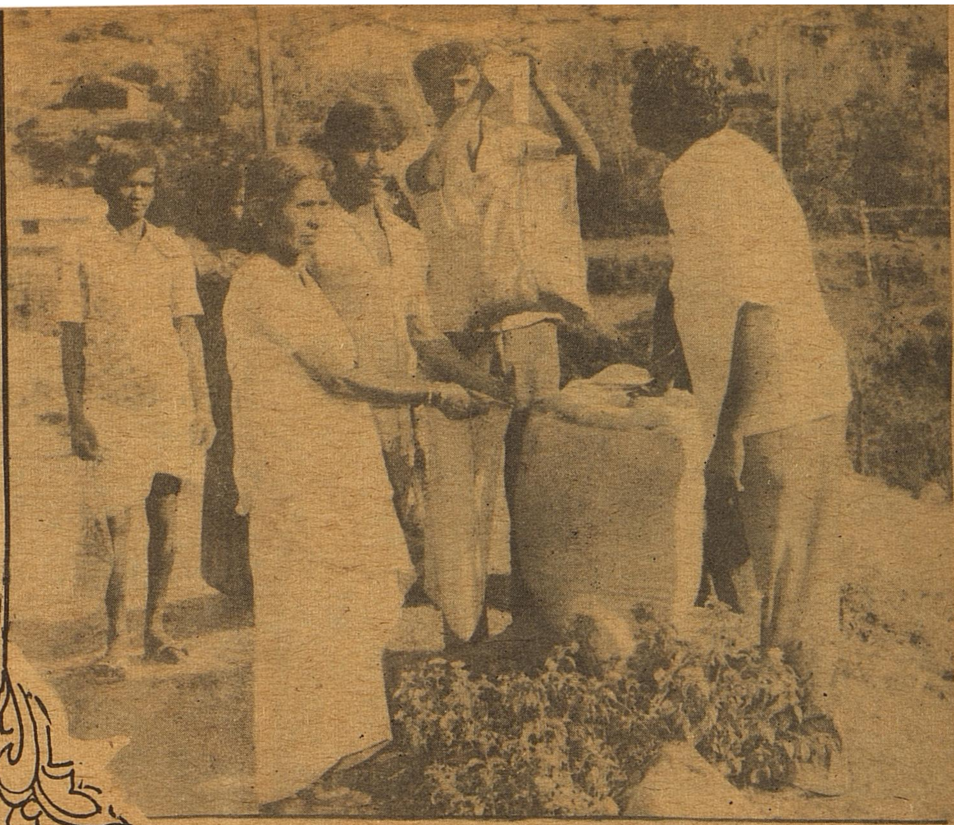
(3) Construction of village tanks, repairing, deepening and rejunevation of existing tanks for providing water for human use, for cattle, for developing irrigation of fisheries etc.

(4) Minor irrigation works including those relating to flood protection, drainage and anti-water logging works, construction of intermediate and main drains, field channel and land levelling etc., in the command areas of irrigation projects, cleaning and desilting of water courses etc.,

(5) Soil and water conservation and land reclamation.

(6) Rural Roads subject to standard specifications where specific financial provision exists for their hard surfacing, cross drainage, maintenance etc.

(7) School and Balwadi buildings, Panchayat ghars, community centres, drinking water wells, drinking water sources for the wild animal in the forest areas, cattle ponds, pinjrapoles, ganshalas, community poultry and piggery houses, bathing and washing platforms, community toilets, community garbage pits, community bio-gas plants.



## INRUSH

It has been suggested that 'priority has to be given to works that provide a direct boost to rural economy. Only such works as create community assets, should be taken up. However an exception may be made in respect of works benefitting individuals belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes only in respect of group housing and land development projects for their utilisation .In the selection of works also preference is required to be given to such works as mainly benefit the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. In general the works which benefit the poorer sections in the rural society should receive priority.

It is also contemplated that special attention should be paid to projects on which women can be gainfully employed.

## INTERFLOW OF INVESTMENTS

Food for Work programme and National Rural employment programme were fully financed by the Central Government till 31.3.81. With effect from 1.4.81 however, the programme has been included in the Sixth Plan. It is now being implemented as centrally sponsored scheme on 50:50 sharing basis between the Centre and State. A total provision of Rs. 22.20 crores has been made for the programme for the past three quarters of the year 1981-82 out of which central share will be 11.10 crores.

The outlay of National Rural Employment Programme includes provision both for wage as well as material component of works. The ratio between the material component and wage component in respect of individiual works has been fixed at 40:60.

Consideration behind fixing these ratios, however are that on the one hand the employment generation under the programme should be maximised and on the other hand, the specifications for the works to be taken up under the programme need not be as high and rigid as prescribed conventionally. Also, priority has to be given to the labour intensive works like afforestation, construction of tanks, food protection and soil conservation works etc.

## INEVITABILITY OF SHELF

In implementing the Food for Work Programme even though numerous assets were created, the selection and execution of work was not generally on systematic and planned basis. The dimensions of the programme having increased considerably now, it is felt appropriate that a shelf of projects suitable to areas be carefully prepared for execution of works on priority basis district/blockwise to arrest the tendency of haphazard undertaking of works. The shelf of projects as a continuous process on a sufficiently dispersed scale for each district/block will cater to the felt needs of the rural community particularly of economically and socially handicapped. It has been done in all the districts in the State.

## INSTANCES EARMARKED

There has been vast felling of trees particularly in rural areas for utilisation as feul and fodder. As a result of this not only it is found difficult to meet the fuel needs of the rural people, but it has also effective disturbance in the ecological balance. In view of this situation, it is felt absolutely essential that more and more trees are planted on Government/Panchayat lands as well as along roads and canals. In order to ensure this 10% of the allocations made under the programme have been earmarked for utilisation exclusively on programmes of social forestry and plantation.

Also with a view to ensure that the benefits of the programme reach the weaker sections of the Society 10% of the allocations have been earmarked under the programme for utilisation on programme of direct benefit to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes.

## INALIENABILITY OF WAGE QUANTUM

The wages to be paid under the programme are to be on a par with the minimum agricultural wages

prescribed in the State. The idea behind this provision is that the agricultural activities should not be made to suffer during the peak agricultural seasons. In fact the employment to be generated under the programme would have to be mostly during the lean agricultural seasons.

At present only 1 kg. of rice per head per day is being given instead of 2 kg proposed earlier by Government of India. The remaining portion of the wages has to be paid in cash.

INTOLERABLE INROAD

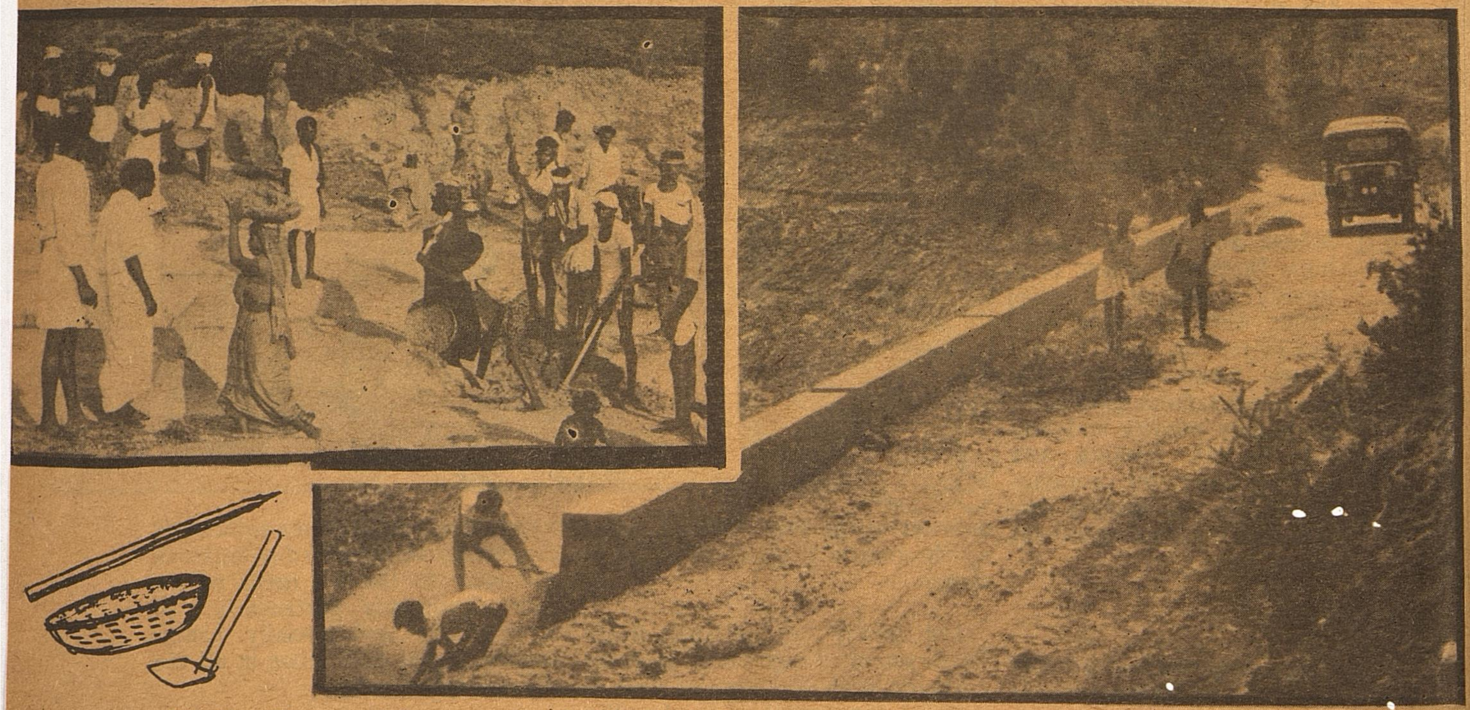
In order to ensure that the benefit of the scheme reaches the individual workers, it is obviously necessary that the agencies responsible for execution of the works directly reach the foodgrain to the workers. As such the contractors are to be totally excluded from the execution of this programme as well as from the distribution of rice as wages to workers employed on works under the programme.

INVOLVEMENT OF PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS

The programme is basically aimed at providing employment to the rural poor, raising their economic status generating community assets and thereby strengthening the rural infrastructure. To achieve this end in view it is but appropriate that the Panchayat Unions are directly involved in the field level implementation of works.

INVESTIGATION ON INVOLVEMENTS

The volume of works involved under the programme is such that it requires proper monitoring as and when the works are being implemented. As envisaged by Government of India, peoples committee at the block level, and steering committees at District and State level have been constituted and are convened at frequent intervals as warranted. The main tasks of these committees are to plan the works to be taken up under the programme to determine allocation of resources to the blocks. It has to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of resources to all the areas under its charge and there is no misuse of any type.



Peoples committee at the block level and steering committees at District and State levels have been constituted and are convened at frequent intervals. All the times of works are placed in a dispersed scale with the approval of the District level Committee and incorporated in the shelf of projects. The implementations of the scheme is closely watched by reviews at various intervals and levels. 11 technical audit cells super check the quality and quantity of works and ensure their durability.

INTAKES AND OFFSHOOTS

In Tamil Nadu under both Food for Work Programme and National Rural Employment Programme from the inception till the end of 31.3.81, 80613 works were taken up for execution out of which 73,407 works were completed leaving a spill over of 7206 works for the subsequent year. During the above period 105610 Tonnes of rice was utilised out of an allotment of 133000 Tonne and the cost of the material component utilised was Rs. [illegible] lakhs Wages paid in cash to workers was Rs. 186.50 lakhs.

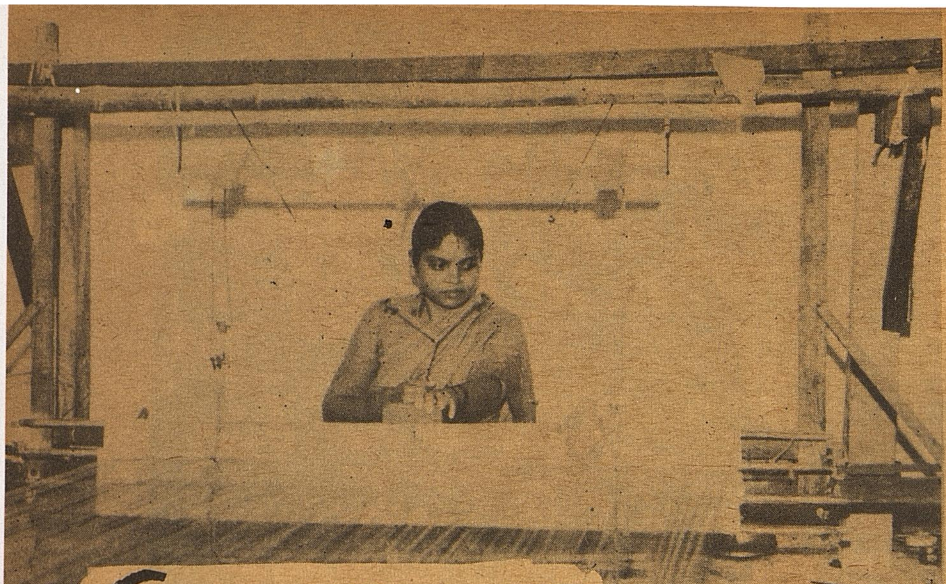
During the current year upto 31.1.82, 44372 works have been taken up for execution out of which 33983 works have been completed and others are in progress. An allotment of 14,138 Tonnes of rice has so far been effected and the quantum of rice distributed as wages is 28530 Tonnes which includes the last year's balance of rice. Towards the wage and material component paid in cash for the works amount to Rs. 1945.62 lakhs have been spent.

For the execution of these works in rural areas during 1980-81, 2,48,842 workers were given gainful

employment by generating 146.75 lakh mandays. For the current year (1981-82) upto 31-1-82, 3,31,011 workers were given employment under the programme generating 335.21 lakhs mandays. Value of durable assets created during 1980-81 was in the order of Rs. 872.30 lakhs and for the current year upto 31-1-82 is Rs. 2346.52 lakhs.

## INSPIRING INFERENCE

All vital aspects of rural infrastructure have brought under the programme. The scheme is being made use of to provide work continuously for the Agricultural labourer during the off-season and also to provide basic amenities to weaker sections. It is proposed to bring Harijan Housing under the programme during the coming years so also a massive programme of social forestry. The progarmme at the end of five years will be expected to change the face of rural sector in Tamil Nadu.



# CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT TO HANDLOOM WEAVERS

R. VARADARAJULU, I. A.S.
Director of Handlooms and Textiles

**General Policy :**

The new 20 Point Economic Programme announced by the Prime Minister of India envisages provision of all facilities to handlooms to grow and update their technology. In tune with the policy of the Central Government, the Government of Tamilnadu continue to take abiding interest in the welfare of the handloom industry in the State and this is obvious from the fact that the financial outlay for handlooms sector has been increased from a level of Rs. 27.82 crores during the 5th Five Year Plan period to Rs. 84.58 crores in the 6th Five Year Plan period of the State. The State Government have taken a policy decision to liberate all the poor handloom weavers from the clutches of the master weavers and to admit them into Weavers Cooperative Societies to enable them to avail of the benefit of the various handloom development schemes implemented by the Government. The objectives of the various handloom development programmes launched by the State are two-fold, namely provision of continuous employment to handloom weavers and an assured steady income for them.

**COOPERATIVE COVERAGE OF HANDLOOMS :**

Out of the total of 5.56 lakhs handlooms in the State, 2.93 lakhs handlooms have so far been organised into 1,263 Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies. The present Cooperative Coverage of handlooms is about 52.7 per cent. The State is aiming at a target of 67% cooperative coverage by the end of the 6th Plan Period. Provision of common worksheds for the benefit of loomless weavers is the highlight of the scheme of cooperative coverage programme. Under the scheme, 7 new Industrial Weavers Cooperative Societies have been registered in the month of March, 1982, exclusively for the benefit of 700 weavers belonging to Adi Dravida communities. Common work-sheds will be constructed for the benefit of these weavers and for this, the Government have sanctioned a total financial assistance of Rs. 44.59 lakhs in the form of 100% subsidy. It is also proposed to avail of the help of the Nationalised Banks for sanction of consumption loan for getting the weavers liberated from the clutches of master weavers and for admitting them as members of Weavers Cooperative Societies.

**SUPPLY OF INPUTS**

The 12 Cooperative Spinning Mills in the State continue to take care of the yarn requirements of the handloom weavers within the cooperative sector. To meet the increasing demand for yarn in the cooperative sector in the years to come, 3 new Cooperative Spinning Mills one each at Pudukkottai, Dharmapuri and Theni (Madurai District) have recently been registered and necessary follow-up action is being taken to set up these mills with a capacity of 25,000 spindles each and involving a total capital cost of Rs. 21 crores. It is also proposed to set up a new spinning mill with a spindleage of 12,000 by the name " Bharathi Cooperative Spinning Mills " at Ettayapuram in Tirunelveli District in commemoration of Poet Bharathi to meet the synthetic yarn requirements of the weavers in Tamilnadu. As part of the Bharathi Centenary Celebrations recently held, foundation stone for the proposed Bharathi Co-operative Spinning Mills has been laid at Ettayapuram on the 13th December, 1981. The existing Cooperative Spinning Mills at Salem and Vellore are also implementing a programme of expansion of their capacity by another 12,000 spindles each. The Government have also since sanctioned a subsidy of Rs.2 crores under the Special Component plan for the setting up of a new Cooperative Spinning Mill exclusively for the benefit of Adi Dravida workers in Ramanathapuram district. The above programmes of setting up of new mills and expansion of existing mills will create additional employment potential for about 3,500 persons.

Recently when the handloom weavers in the private sector experienced difficulties in getting cotton yarn of coarser counts particularly 20s and 2/17s counts, the Government took timely steps to solve the problems by getting allotments of yarn from National Textile Corporation's Mills. With a view to avert any possible yarn crisis in future, the Government propose to set up a *Raw-Material Bank* with financial assistance from Centre on matching basis. Currently, the silk handloom weavers in the State are expe-

riencing difficulties in getting rawsilk at reasonable prices. As a result of the efforts taken by our Government, the Government of India have taken action to import rawsilk from China. Tamilnadu has been given a quota of 89 tons of imported raw silk of which 32.50 tons have already been received and are being distributed to the silk handloom weavers both within and outside the cooperative fold.

**PRODUCTION FINANCE :**

The Reserve Bank of India have provided a total credit limit of Rs. 46.31 crores as concessional finance towards working capital of handloom cooperatives, in our State for the year 1981-82 and this is roughly 50% the total handloom finance being extended to by the Reserve Bank of India the handloom industry as a whole in the country. For the year 1982-83, a total credit limit of Rs. 85 crores has been recommended to the Reserve Bank of India for sanction both in respect of Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies and the Apex Society.

**DESIGN CUM SERVICE CENTRES :**

To enable the handlooms to develop new products and designs, the Cooptex (Apex Handloom Cooperative) has opened five Design cum Service Centres at Madurai, Trichy, Coimbatore, Salem and Kadayanallur with financial assistance of Rs. 17.50 lakhs from the Government. Recently, the Design Cum Service Centre at Salem produced a new type of saree called the 'Ayodhya Sarees' with exquisite designs selected by the Consumer Council. These sarees which were released by the Honourable Minister for Education and Handlooms on 5-3-1982 are becoming very popular with consumers.

**MARKETING SUPPORT TO HANDLOOMS :**

The Government have been providing marketing support to the Primary Handloom Cooperatives through the Cooptex in a big way. The actual sales performance of Cooptex during 1980-81 was Rs. 48 crores as against the expectation of Rs. 45 crores. The turn-over of Cooptex during 1981-82 is around Rs. 65 crores and to enable the Cooptex to achieve a higher target, the Government have provided an additional equity of Rs. 1 crore to this institution during 1981-82. The sales performance of Cooptex during the last Deepavali season (October, 1981) was of the order of Rs. 32 crores equivalent to $1\frac{1}{2}$ times of the sales effected during Deepavali, 1980. This year's Pongal sales was for Rs. 15.33 lakhs which is equivalent to $1\frac{3}{4}$. times of last year's Pongal sales. The Corporate Plan of Cooptex envisages a projected sales performance of Rs. 100 crores for 1982-83. To achieve this target, the Cooptex is making all-out efforts and introducing a massive programme of diversification of products with the primary weavers cooperative societies.

**SAVINGS AND SECURITY SCHEME**

A welfare scheme called the "Cooperative Handloom Weavers Savings and Security Scheme" is being implemented in our State for the benefit of handloom weavers within the cooperative fold. This scheme is linked to a Group Insurance Scheme for the weavers. 67,000 handloom weavers have so far been brought under this scheme. Under the scheme if a weaver dies, his nominee gets a flat sum of Rs. 3,000 as insurance cover from Life Insurance Corporation of India in addition to the accumulation in his fund account with effect from 1st March, 1980 onwards. The question of increasing the quantum of assistance to the weaver is under the consideration of the Government.

**WEAVERS HOUSING SCHEME**

The weavers Housing Scheme which was discontinued after 1962, has since been revived and a new modified weavers housing scheme is being implemented from the year 1979-80 onwards. According to this scheme, the total cost of a house should not exceed Rs. 8,000 of which a sum of Rs. 1,000 is being given as subsidy by the State Government. The Housing and Urban Development Corporation is providing a loan not exceeding 70% of the estimated cost of each house subject to a maximum loan of Rs. 5,600 per house. It is proposed to construct 5,000 houses during the 6th plan period. Of this, the construction of 2,073 houses has already been planned, 1,054 houses have so far been completed and the remaining houses are under a different stages of construction. The Housing and Urban Development Corporation has so far sanctioned a loan assistance of Rs. 59.79 lakhs. Another loan application for a sum of Rs. 53.23 lakhs is under their scrutiny. During 1982-83, 1,000 houses will be constructed taking advantage of the Government subsidy of Rs. 1,000 per house and the Housing and Urban Development Corporation loan as per their norms.

**STATUTORY PROTECTION TO HANDLOOM WEAVERS AND SETTING UP OF A HANDLOOM BOARD :**

The Tamilnadu Handloom Workers (Conditions of Employment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 1981 which has been passed by the State Legislature has received the asset of the President and has thus become an Act. The Government are taking steps to implement the provisions of this new Act which seeks to regulate the working conditions of the handloom weavers in the State. The Act has come into force with effect from 12-3-1982. With a view to monitor the enforcement of the provisions of the above Act and also to render necessary assistance to the handloom weavers in the private sector, the Government are considering a proposal to set up a State Handloom Board with adequate powers.

**HANDLOOM EXHIBITION**

It is a an annual feature to conduct the "All India Handloom Fortnight Celebrations" with Handloom Exhibitions at Madras and other important towns in the Districts during April, in order to help disposal of handloom goods and to make the consumers handloom conscious. This year the 28th All India Handloom Fortnight is being celebrated for fifteen days from 9th April to 23rd April, 1982 in Madras City and eleven important towns namely Kancheepuram, Trichy, Virudhunagar, Madurai, Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Nagercoil, Salem, Coimbatore and Erode. Handloom Exhibitions are also being held in these places as part of the All India Handloom Fortnight Celebrations. It is hoped that the consuming public will visit the Handloom Exhibitions at Madras and in the Districts in large numbers, buy their entire requirements of cloth from Handloom taking advantage of the special discounts offered by the handloom coopertives and thereby give a helping hand to the poor weavers of our State.

# BHARATHI and NATIONAL INTEGRATION

**Prof. K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar**

Today, more than ever, we are in need of Subramania Bharati's message. Divisive forces are trying hard to wreck the unity of our motherland. The common man, appalled by the corruption and double-talk around him does not know which way to turn. Struggling for his day-to-day living in a fast-approaching economic chaos, stunned by the stances on the political chess-board, he is becoming a prey to fear, self-doubt and despair.

However, a good augury is noticed in the decision to hold nation-wide celebrations to mark the centenary of Subramania Bharati's birth. A child of Tamil and a lover of the Tamil language, Bharati was also an ideal Indian citizen. Words lead to action and Bharati's words of national integration may yet save the future for us.

Bharati's views of an integral India may be seen even in his earliest poems. The Partition of Bengal in 1905 had sent shock-waves throughout India and Indians had rallied to the noble cry of *Vande Mataram*, the title of the poem of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya. Sri Aurobindo has rightly referred to the words as a *mantra*. *Vande Mataram* was henceforth to be the mantra of national integration to see the sub-continent as a whole, a living mother. Apart from giving two brilliant translated versions of Bankim's poem, Bharati used the two words as the Great Bass in his patriotic poems and wrote several lyrics underlining the oneness of India. Indians have a common geographical states, a common heritage, a common genius:

The mighty Himavant is ours—
there is no equal anywhere on earth.

The generous Ganga is ours—
which other river can match her grace?

The sacred Upanishads are ours—
what scriptures else to name with them?

This sunny golden land is ours—
She's peerless, let us praise her!

Heroism and self-sacrifice have been the marks of all the children of Mother India, proclaims 'The jewelled flag of the Mother'. Under the national flag assemble Tamilians, Keralites, Andhras, Marathas, Rajputs, Bengalis, Punjabis and others. Bharati further elaborated the theme of national integration in 'Bharat: A Vision of the Future'. The several states of India achieve national prosperity by mutual give and take.

For the wheat of the Gangetic plain we'll give
Betel-leaves from the Kaveri land;
We'll hear the martial Mahartta bards
And offer them Kerala's ivory works.

We'll fashion a magic sound-box
And hear in Kanchi the poet of Kashi;
We'll greet the Rajput warriors
With gold from the mines of Kolar.

Bharati knew that the many races within India were held together by their love of the motherland. The unity in diversity was there for all to see:

Our Mother Bharat's age
Is beyond history's ken;
And yet, as long as the world lasts
She'll remain young.
She has thirty crores of faces,
but her heart is one;
She speaks eighteen languages,
Yet her mind is one.

Subramania Bharati stressed this common indwelling patriotic genius in Indians by writing severally on leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Guru Govind, Shivaji and Bal Gangadhar Tilak. His clarion-call to the Indians was to rise unitedly, shake off the foreigner's might, and work together to place India at the apex of world powers.

Come let us labour ,all,
Sparing naught and hurting none,
Walking in the way of Truth and Light.
There shall be none of low degree,
And none shall be oppressed.
Born in India,
All are of noble birth!

Bharati, was of course, not blind to the separatist tendencies among many myopic Indians. In a poem on 'The Indian today' he bewails the suicidal habits of Indians who revel in splits and disintegration at the slightest cause. "A crore? Nay there are more divisions, and my heart cannot bear to think of these hapless people", he exclaims and refers to the caste and race differences existing in India. In a poem on 'Bharat Dying', he administers whiplashes to such divisive tendencies.

Do you prate of a hundred castes
Yet fail in the duties of any?
Away, away.

Do you quote a hundred laws,
Yet genuflect for a pie? Away,
away.

And in a welcome to the 'Resurgent Bharat' he hails the deliverer in magnificent terms.

Come, come and translate
thoughts into deed
Come, come whose will is equal
do desire;
Come, come, take up the Her-
culean task
Of forging the unity of our land.

Subramania Bharati knew very well that national integration could not be achieved by mere slogans. He wanted the idea to be a part of the Indian's psyche, and the best way was to begin with the child. Several stanzas in his 'Baby Song' are devoted to the concept of Indian unity and how children should recognise it and live in that consciousness.

Himavant in the North,
Kumari in the South;
Big seas twain
To the East and West.

The land of the Vedas,
And of great warriors,
She's stainless Hindusthan—
Worship her as the Mother!

But geographical unity is not everything. Even from childhood the Indian should eschew the divisions based on caste and class.

There are no castes, baby;
'Tis sin to talk of high and low;
Highborn are those with love,
Justice, knowledge and
education.

'Sound the Tocsin' is a close argument in favour of an integral outlook on life. What are these divisions of caste, sex and race? Mere compartmentalisation that only leads to the demaeaning of the human being? Bharati is seen in this poem as a sterling poet of humanism:

Equality on earth
and Fraternity
and Liberty—these be
the gifts divine.
Food for all humanity
living on the earth;
O world ascendent
on Educations' wings.

O Drum! sound unity,
and Love's triumph:
Decree prospertiy
for all upon earth!

National unity and international amity were always close to Bharati's heart. He often returned to the subject in his essays and was highly critical of the role of caste in splintering India. He recognised with sorrow that even the 'untouchables' were split into a hundreds and eight divisions! Commenting on the anti-Brahmin movement that began in his days, he stated that only political independence could help us form a united, divisionless society. Three decades after independence, we remain still far from achieving the poet's dream.

During his Pondicherry days, Subramania Bharati ripened into a pure Vedantin. A close study of our Vedic and Upanishadic texts brought him the assurance that global unity was possible, once the unity of existence was understood by all. 'Beat the Drum' is typical of this stance. Having vanquished the demon Fear and killed the reptile Lie, the poet sings:

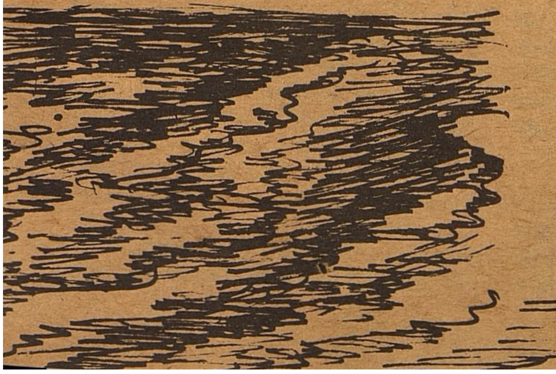
The crow and the sparrow are
of us,
The sea and the mountain are
of us
'tis ourselves everywhere we see
and the heart dances with
delight.

His upanishadic view of abhaya (fear lessness) and ananda (happiness) draws our mind towards global unity. Rightly has Mandayam Srinivasachariar hailed him as a great integrator, the poet of human unity:

"He (Bharati) was not merely a good poet but also a great seer of the possibilities of nature. As such he was not merely a poet of the Tamil Nadu or of India but was a singer of the world-happiness towards which humanity is moving onward. He starts from the present state in which he finds India and urges it to move onwards abandoning its feeling of helplessness and crude conventions.

Beginning from *Pappa Pattu* and reminding India of ancient heroes he sings his *Sakti Pattu* showing how India will become immortal in the coming ages with the present-day geographical limits losing all their petty hatreds under the guise of patriotism".

A great poet's words are never in vain. Bharati's vision of human integration might yet come ture.



# MASS MARRIAGES

## TEMPLES BLAZE A NEW TRAIL

V. PARANJOTHI, M.A., D.J.
Information and Public Relation Officer

Much ink has been spilled by sociologists in studying the marriage system in various countries. They broadly describe three categories of marriages—bilateral, matrilateral and patrilateral systems of marriage. In India, we may generally state that the bilateral, i.e. marrying the child of one's own father's sister or mother's brother has been accepted, eventhough the sanguine alliance is avoided to improve the calibre of the progeny. The alliance is within the caste or community. The caste system has hampered the free mixing and inter-caste affirnity in wedlock. Besides, the status of women in society has been subordinated to male domination and family rigidity. The concomitant of such complex social fabric of marriage system is that the caste barriers got steel safe and social amalgamation and women's emancipation was a far cry. This was the position that women enjoyed till the beginning of 20th century.

Then came Mahatma Gandhi. He came as a bolt from the blue. His struggle for freedom was linked with women's progress and their rights and freedom on par with men. In the USSR and China, women's emancipation was part of their freedom struggle.

Describing the pathetic conditions of women in India, just before the beginning of Gandhian era, Gandhiji himself said "Woman has been suppressed under custom and law for which man was responsible and in the shaping of which she has no hand...... Woman has as much right to shape her own destiny as man has to shape his.. It is upto men to see that they enable them to realise their full status and play their part as equal of men." Needless to say that Gandhiji gave a clarion call to the frail section to join his fight against the alien rule as also the constructive programme which he evolved to reform the social base and revitalise the Indian economy. Thousands of men and women, the educated, the illiterate, the rich and the poor joined him, forgetting the dividing walls of caste, religion, region and language. Inter-caste, inter-religious and inter-regional marriages were solemnised and approved of by Gandhiji himself.

The rationalist movement headed by Thanthai Periyar in Tamil Nadu ignited a new change in social thinking of the people and the archaic customs and superstitions gave way to new social values. Revered Anna, an epoch-making social reformer, with all his wit and wisdom, created a coterie for the spread of the message of one God and one Community'. The grip of casteism on the people had a violent shaking. Through his powerful pen and rhetoric, Anna sowed the seeds of social reforms and change. Anna and his mentor Thanthai Periyar constantly struck at the roof of caste and they encouraged inter-caste-marriage. They visualised that such marriage would strike at the very root of casteism.

Lately, the Government of Tamil Nadu has been encouraging inter-caste marriages. A grant of Rs. 5000/- is being granted to each inter-caste marriage. The Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru R.M. Veerappan, has given new direction and meaning to temple administration in the State. Toning up of the temple administration had led to increase in the income

of import... temples like Arulmigu Subramanyaswami Temple, Palani and Tiruthani. He has avid interest in the poor and the under-dog in society. He has evolved a plan of mass marriages by the temple authorities. Temples have come forward to organise inter-caste and mass marriages of the poor. The inter-caste marriage is now gaining momentum. Under his dynamic guidance and presidentship, ninety eight marriages, organised by Arulmigu Tiruthani Subramanyaswamy Temple, were held at Tirutani on 5.10.81. Out of 98 couples, 81 were inter-caste marriages—the bride or groom belonging to Adi Dravida community. Among the grooms were a young bramin who married an Adi-Dravida girl. The entire expenditure of the marriages was borne by the Temple authorities. Blessing the newly married, the Hon'ble Minister Thiru R.M. Veerappan, said that Government accorded sanction for Rs. 750/ from the funds of the temple for each marriage, but Rs. 600/- alone was spent by the temple authorities in Tiruthani. The Minister announced that an amount of Rs. 150/ being the balance of the total of Rs. 750/ will be spent for purchase of "Kuthu Vilakku" and brass water pots to be presented to each couple. The Mariamman Temple at Samayapuram also organised such mass marriages.

Closely on the heels of these ceremonies came the community marriage at Tiruverkadu. Arulmigu Karumariamman Koil in Tiruverkadu, about 15-Km from Madras city, draws bee-line of devotees everyday, particularly on Sundays. People visit this temple with great faith in the powers of the Goddess. This tiny village has acquired importance as a pilgrim centre in recent years. The temple authorities make elaborate arrangements to regulate the queues and help the devotees to have convenient worship of the Deity.

The Mass Marriage of 50 couples was held Feb 21 at Thiruverkadu Thirty four Adi-Dravidas and sixteen Backward Classes were married at the ceremony. Tiruvekadu village was agog, and a festive look added elegance to this temple village, already permeating with an atmosphere of awe and piety. The Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru R.M. Veerappan, presiding over the ceremony, blessed the couples and Tmt. Rajammal Veerappan gave gold 'Mangala Sutra' (Thali) to each couple and the couples exchanged garlands, beaming with exuberance, and thanked the Minister and the temple for helping them in getting united in Wed-lock at the expenses of the Temple.

The community marriage in Temples is a shinning example of the Temple administration's desire to enter new areas of service to the poor. In his address, the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru R.M. Veerappan, said that 300 marriages had already been organised by the temples and 500 more such marriages would be conducted by the temples with in a period of three months. He explained in detail the upward trend in the income of the Temples, and said that the total cash that the temples had on 31.2.82 was Rs. 15,217,00,558 as against Rs.4,69,38,000 on 1.7.78. The Minister also added that the request that temples should set up educational and industrial units is under active consideration. Action is afoot to set up technical institutions for women. The minister gave as presentation Rs. 100/- to each couple on his own capacity and on behalf of his wife and daughter. Two ever-silver plates, one Kudam (pot), rice and dhall were given to each couple on behalf of Arulmigu Karumariamman Temple.

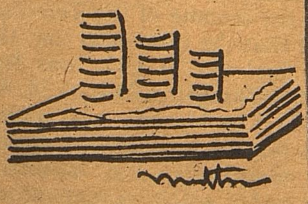
Community marriages organised by the Temples help the poor and set in motion a new life for them. It is a boon to the backward and economically weak. The newly married have their aspirations fulfilled in the premises of temples which form part and parcel of the life of the Hindus.

Government of Tamil Nadu have decided to grant a marriage allowance of Rs. 1000/- to one thousand widows towards meeting the expenses of marriage of their daughters who are in the age group 18-30. This is one more new scheme of the Government of Tamil Nadu towards ameliorating the lot of poor widows in the State. Under the scheme thousand widows will be benefitted during 1981-82.

Earlier in this year, Government had issued orders giving preference to widows in indigent circumstances for employment in various medical institutions as nursing aids, Ayahs, Sweepers, Sanitary workers, Hospital servants, Cooks, Kitchen Attendants, Waterwomen etc.

Widows are also eligible for consideration under the Old Age Pension scheme. The total number of beneficiaries benefitted so far under this scheme is 43,018.

There are many other schemes which are available to the widows such as admission in the service homes for improving their skills towards economic rehabilitation, supply of free books and note books to the children of widows till they complete their high school education, economic



assistance towards widows remarriage under which National Savings Certificate to the value of Rs. 5000/- held indeposit for 7 years is given in the names of the husband and wife etc. The number of beneficiaries for the last five years under the scheme for admission in Service Homes is as follows:

No.of beneficiaries for the year 1981-82 Adults 498; Children 152.

The number of beneficiaries under the scheme of supply of free books and note books to the children of widows for the year 1981-82 is 3340,

The number of beneficiaries under the scheme of Widows' remarriage for the year 1980-81 is 373 couples.

There are also other schemes under which widows get assistance by way of gift sewing machines to those who are trained in tailoring to enable them to eke out livelihood. The number of beneficiaries under this scheme for the year 1979-80 is 2500.

Reservation of seats in Engineering Colleges/ Medical Colleges in respect of widows in Tamil Nadu:

| | |
|---|---|
| Other than Perarignar Anna University | 1 |
| Medical Colleges | 10 |
| Arts Colleges | 2 |

The scheme just announced of assisting the widows towards meeting the expenses of the marriage of their daughters is one more step in the same direction.

नवम एशियाई खेल·दिल्ली
IX ASIAN GAMES
DELHI 1982

# THE EMBLEM

## EMBLEM FOR IX ASIAN GAMES, DELHI 1982

### CONCEPT

It is an essential feature of all logo designs for the Olympic, Commonwealth and Asian Games that the city, as opposed to the country, in which the Games are held, is the centre of the design concept.

This design follows the rule and uses as its inspiration the Jantar Mantar observatory.

Jantar Mantar has been chosen for three reasons—one, it is in the heart of the city of Delhi; two, it is a monument of purely Indian architecture and three, it represents a quest for knowledge and perfection.

### TREATMENT

The Jantar Mantar building has been graphically represented in bold lines, which keep the essential form of the structure.

The design is based very solidly on the two lower swathes of black and then, in pleasing curves, sweeps upward to a climax, which is the sun, the Asian Games symbol. The composite whole has compatibility of concept, and unity of linear design.

It is totally modern in feeling, yet uniquely Indian in form.

### INTERPRETATION

While the emblem is literally and deliberately a representation of the Jantar Mantar monument, it also transmits three additional visual messages, all of them relevant.

i) The form suggests a STADIUM, which is the focus of any sporting event.

ii) It resembles a PEEPUL LEAF, which in India, symbolises the achievement of perfection, and is auspicious.

iii) The NAMASKAR or welcome, our typical way of greeting, is visible in the design.

### IMPACT

The emblem's impact is heightened because of the originality of using Jantar Mantar, which has never been used before in design. This adds uniqueness and memorability.

The solid lines are easy to comprehend visually and to reproduce in print or any other media

# "APPU" THE MASCOT FOR IX ASIAN GAMES DELHI-1982

"APPU" THE MASCOT FOR IX ASIAN GAMES DELHI-1982

## APPU THE MASCOT FOR IX ASIAN GAMES.

Elephant is loved all over the world for its wisdom, strength and loyalty. In India it is considered particularly auspicious and figures predominantly in her mythology and folk-lore.

Appu, the prancing baby elephant, gay and playful, with a merry twinkle in his eyes, amply embodies the spirit of Asian Games. The mark of a Bindiya on his forehead is actually the symbol of the Asian Games and, incidentally, it helps easy identification of the mascot.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU AND PRINTED AT THE TAMIL ARASU PRESS, GOVT. ESTATE, MADRAS-600002.

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